

SHOCK

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CHILLING TALES OF HORROR AND SUSPENSE

**THE MARK
OF THE
MONSTER**

**THE SPECTRAL SISTER
VAMPIRE MASTER
SLEEP OF DEATH**



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the
man
from

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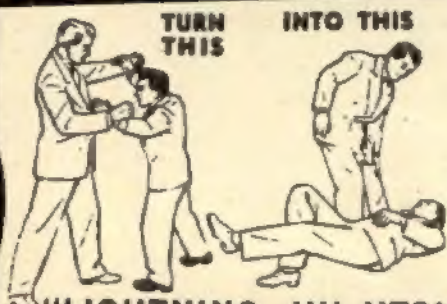
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SHOCK

CHILLING TALES OF HORROR AND SUSPENSE

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The MARK of the MONSTER



SOME MEN ARE BORN TO BE HUNG...OTHERS WAIT TENSELY FOR THE FATED MIDNIGHT THAT WILL BRING A DARK AND HOODED FORM FROM THE RUSTLING SHADOWS! ONLY THESE HAUNTED FEW CAN KNOW WHAT **THE MARK OF THE MONSTER** MEANT TO **FRED THATCHER**... THE SOFT-PACED HORROR FROM WHICH HE COULD NOT HIDE... THE FLARING DESTINY HE COULD NOT ESCAPE!

ONE NIGHT...ALONG A LANE DAPPLED BY THE CLOUDED MOON...

STRANGE THING...FOR MOST OF MY ADULT LIFE, I'VE HAD THE FEELING OF WAITING FOR SOMETHING TO HAPPEN...AND **NOW** I'VE GOT THE OVERWHELMING CONVICTION THAT IT'LL BE **TONIGHT!**



THE IDEA OF BEING **DESTINED** FOR SOMETHING MIGHT SOUND QUEER TO ANYONE ELSE...BUT WHAT ABOUT THE STRANGE CONSTELLATION THAT APPEARED ON THE HORIZON AT THE VERY MOMENT I WAS BORN? THE STARS FORMED SUCH A WEIRD OUTLINE THAT MY FATHER TOOK A PHOTOGRAPH OF THEM...AND I'VE NEVER DOUBTED THAT SOME DAY I'D FIND A LINK BETWEEN THAT SIGN IN THE SKY...AND **MY OWN LIFE!**



SUDDENLY...

GREAT GUNS! THERE WASN'T A SOUL IN SIGHT WHEN I PASSED THIS WAY JUST A MOMENT AGO!

HELP!

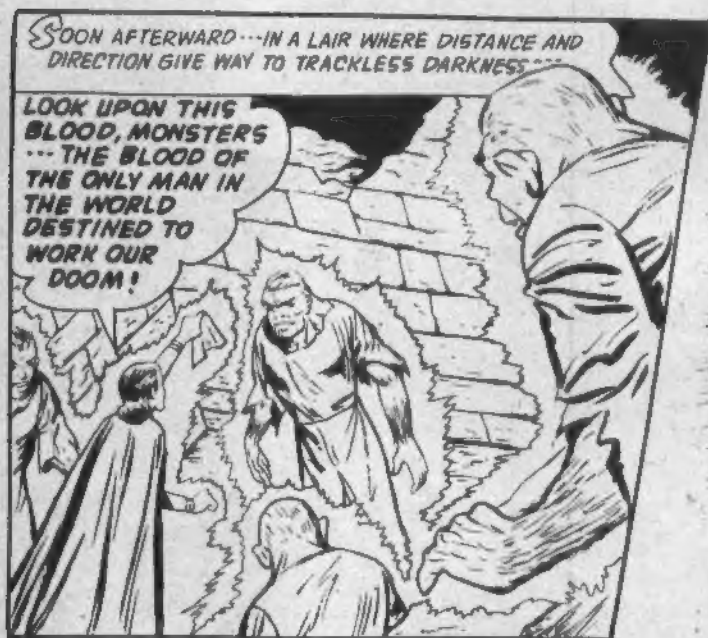




DAZED...BUT WITH THE SHOCK OF A SUDDEN REALIZATION TOWERING ABOVE HIS FEAR...

WHEREVER THESE CREEPS CAME FROM, THERE'S ONE THING I'M SURE OF... **THIS** IS WHAT I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR... THE MOMENT IN WHICH I'M FATED TO MEET **THEM**!





FOR A FLARING SECOND, THE WEIRD IMAGE SHIMMERS WITH A DAZZLING GLOW --- THEN ---



HA HA! A NEW MONSTER... AND A NEW VICTIM! SEEK HIM OUT... **SMITE HIM WITH OUR CURSE!**

FOR YEARS, I SEARCHED FOR FRED THATCHER --- AND FOR YEARS, WITHOUT HIS BEING AWARE OF IT --- THE EVENTS IN HIS LIFE HAVE BEEN BRINGING HIM CLOSER TO **ME!** BUT HE'LL NEVER REALIZE THE POWER HE ALONE POSSESSES --- BECAUSE NOW THAT I'VE FOUND HIM... **HE'S LOST BOTH HIS POWER AND HIS SOUL!**



AN HOUR LATER... LIKE A BLOT OF HORROR CREEPING ACROSS THE MOONLIT ROOM...



AS FRED STIRS...



WAS I DREAMING JUST A SECOND AGO --- OR DID I SEE SOMETHING MOVE?

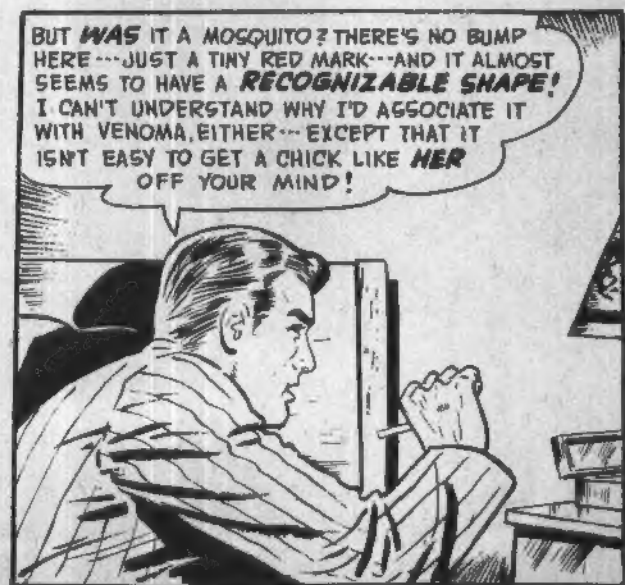
Then... SWIFT AS A GLOWING DART...

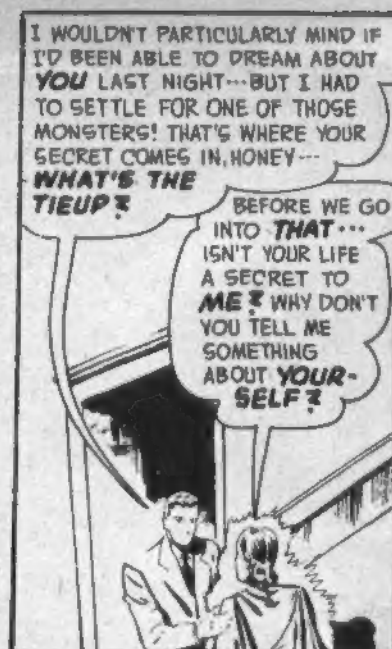


GOOD THING THIS MOSQUITO BITE REALLY WOKE ME UP --- OR I MIGHT HAVE SWEATED OUT A FULL-FLEDGED NIGHTMARE?



BUT **WAS** IT A MOSQUITO? THERE'S NO BUMP HERE --- JUST A TINY RED MARK --- AND IT ALMOST SEEMS TO HAVE A **RECOGNIZABLE SHAPE!** I CAN'T UNDERSTAND WHY I'D ASSOCIATE IT WITH VENOMA, EITHER --- EXCEPT THAT IT ISN'T EASY TO GET A CHICK LIKE **HER** OFF YOUR MIND!





AFTER A SWIRLING MOMENT OF UNCONSCIOUSNESS---

GOOD LORD! THOSE CREEPS
ARE GONE...AND THEY'VE
TAKEN VENOMA WITH
THEM!



NOPE...
THEY'RE
NOWHERE...

TING
TONG
TONG!



AS IF THE
DOOR CHIMES
HAD SOUNDED A
WARNING...
FRED MAKES
A HURRIED
SEARCH!

THE PHOTOGRAPH'S GONE...THE
VERY ONE I WANTED VENOMA TO
SEE...THE PICTURE I **KNEW**
BORE SOME RELATION TO THOSE
MONSTERS! IS **THAT** WHAT
THEY CAME
FOR?



AS FRED RAISES HIS HAND IN A PUZZLED
GESTURE---

THAT MARK! IT'S
GROWN SINCE LAST
NIGHT...IT'S A SHAPE
I CAN'T MISTAKE...
A MONSTER!



WHAT **ELSE** DOES IT REPRESENT?
WHAT IS IT I CAN BARELY MAKE OUT...
AND DON'T DARE ADMIT TO MYSELF?
I'M NOT THE TYPE THAT SCARES
EASILY, BUT **NOW** I'M UP AGAINST
SOMETHING THAT HAS ME LICKED...

THE TERROR
OF DOUBT!



FOR SEVERAL PACING HOURS...A
TORRENT OF QUESTIONS CHURN
THROUGH FRED'S MIND!

WHY DID THOSE MONSTERS APPEAR
BOTH TIMES I SAW VENOMA...
AND WHY DID SHE GLANCE AT MY
HAND TONIGHT...**EXPECTANTLY?**
IF HER BODY'S AS REAL AS IT LOOKS
...**WHY DIDN'T HER WEIGHT**
ON THE DOORMAT RING
THOSE CHIMES? THE WHOLE
KEY IS THAT PHOTOGRAPH OF THE
STARS...I REMEMBER MY FATHER
GAVE A COPY OF IT TO SOMEONE
... **BUT WHO?**



TOWARD DAWN...IN THE SWAYING
TORMENT OF RESTLESS SLEEP...

VENOMA...
VENOMA! EX-
PLAIN YOUR
SECRET...
UNLESS IT
WAS MORE
A TAUNT
THAN A
PROMISE!



Then... AS IF A GAP IN THE WALL OF DARKNESS TOOK ON FORM...

GOOD LORD! A SECOND AGO YOU WERE A VISION... SOMETHING I DREAMED... AND NOW YOU'RE **HERE!**

HA
HA
HA!

YOU WOULD HAVE LEARNED THE SECRET HAD YOUR DESTINY BEEN FULFILLED... IF YOU HAD FOUND YOUR WAY TO OUR LAIR **WITHOUT THE MARK OF THE MONSTER!** THEN YOU COULD HAVE DESTROYED US... INSTEAD OF WAITING LIKE **THIS...** WHILE YOUR OWN DOOM CREEPS CLOSER!

I CAN STAND ANYTHING BUT UNCERTAINTY, VENOMA! GIVE ME A HINT OF WHAT'S AHEAD... SHOW ME WHAT THE MARK OF THE MONSTER MEANS!

IN A FLASH BRISTLING WITH HORROR...

THIS!

CRACK!

NO... NO! THAT CAN'T BE YOU!

AND WHO ELSE? CAN YOU GUESS?

AS THE TERRIFYING SHAPE FADES...

WHETHER IT HAPPENED OR NOT, MY NERVES ARE SHOT... TOMORROW I'D BETTER SEE OLD DR. BAILEY! GREAT GUNS... IT WAS DR. BAILEY WHO BROUGHT ME INTO THE WORLD... **AND HE'S THE ONE TO WHOM MY FATHER GAVE THE EXTRA PHOTOGRAPH!**

NEXT DAY...

NOW I KNOW WHY THOSE MONSTERS SEEMED FAMILIAR THE FIRST TIME I SAW THEM... AND WHY VENOMA SUMMONED THEM LAST NIGHT! SHE REALIZED I'D LEARN TOO MUCH WHEN I SAW HOW THESE STARS WERE GROUPED... THE STARS THAT FORMED A FIGURE IN THE SKY THE NIGHT I WAS BORN... **THE OUTLINE OF ONE OF THOSE CREEPS!**

COME HERE, FRED! I'D LIKE TO TAKE A LOOK AT THAT HAND OF YOURS UNDER THE MICROSCOPE!

FRED HAD SENSED SOMETHING ABOUT THE MARK OF THE MONSTER... AND NOW... MAGNIFIED A HUNDRED TIMES...

I **HOPED** IT WAS SOME KIND OF STRANGE SKIN BLEMISH, FRED... BUT YOU MIGHT AS WELL BRACE YOURSELF FOR THE TRUTH! THE MARK IS DEVELOPING A FACE... THE FEATURES ARE STILL HAZY... **BUT THEY'RE YOURS!**



MY FACE! YE GODS, DOCTOR---WHAT DOES IT MEAN---WHAT ARE THOSE FIENDS TRYING TO DO?

I'VE READ ENOUGH ABOUT BLACK MAGIC TO MAKE A GUESS, FRED! BY TOMORROW NIGHT, THE FACE ON YOUR HAND WILL BE RECOGNIZABLE TO YOU---AND THEN YOU'LL BE DRAWN TO VENOMA'S HIDDEN RETREAT---**TO BECOME A MONSTER YOURSELF!**



I SHOULD HAVE GUESSED---WHEN VENOMA TAUNTED ME LAST NIGHT! YES, I **COULD** HAVE DESTROYED THEM---UNTIL THAT BLACK-HEARTED WITCH FOUND A WAY TO ENSLAVE ME **FOREVER!**

FRED---I'M GOING TO SUGGEST A DRAGSTIC STEP! IT WILL TAKE COURAGE---IT WILL GIVE YOU A REMINDER OF THIS TERROR FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE---**BUT IT MAY SAVE YOUR SOUL!**



THE FOLLOWING NIGHT---AS A GAUNT FIGURE APPROACHES THE LAIR OF EVIL---

LOOK, FIENDS---THE BIDDING OF MY WILL HAS BROUGHT HIM HERE! AND HE WILL NEVER LEAVE---HE WILL NEVER AGAIN BE HUMAN---**ONCE HE LOOKS AT HIS HAND!**

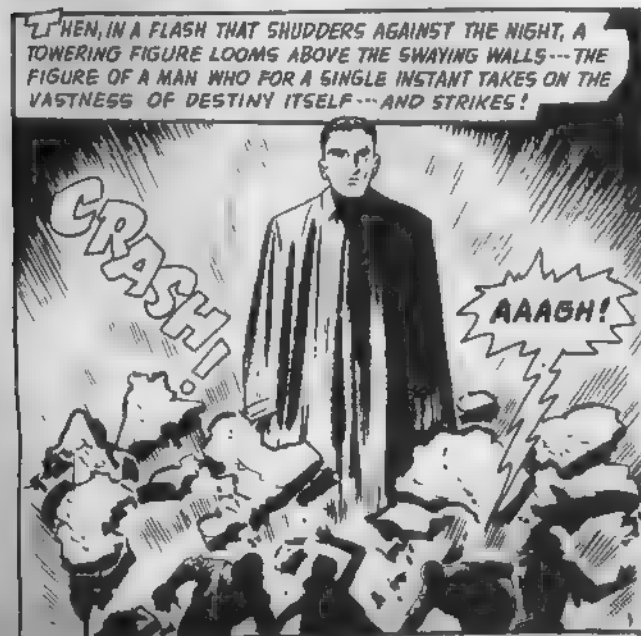


YOUR DOOM IS CLOSE, FRED THATCHER! THE MARK OF THE MONSTER IS ON YOUR HAND---YOUR FEATURES ARE ON THE MARK---**AS PROOF OF WHAT YOU SHALL NOW BECOME!**

NO MARK, VENOMA---NO FEATURES---**NO HAND!**



WHAT ABOUT IT---NOW THAT I'VE REACHED THE HAVEN OF EVIL **WITHOUT** YOUR CURSED BLEMISH? I DON'T KNOW WHERE MY POWER'S COMING FROM---BUT I CAN FEEL IT SURGING THROUGH ME---**BECAUSE THIS IS THE MOMENT FOR WHICH I WAS BORN!**



THEN, IN A FLASH THAT SHUDDERS AGAINST THE NIGHT, A TOWERING FIGURE LOOMS ABOVE THE SWAYING WALLS---THE FIGURE OF A MAN WHO FOR A SINGLE INSTANT TAKES ON THE VASTNESS OF DESTINY ITSELF---AND STRIKES!

CRASH!

AAAGH!



THEY'RE GONE---BURIED UNDER THE STONES THAT KNEW THEIR CRAWLING HORROR---ENGULFED BY THE DARK PAST THAT SPAWNED THEM! I'VE LOST A HAND---BUT I'VE GAINED RELEASE FROM A BLIND DATE WITH DOOM---**AND I CAN THANK MY LUCKY STARS!**

THE END!

BRIDE of DOOM

IT WAS A BAFFLING CASE WHICH DETECTIVE JOE SIMMS WAS CALLED UPON TO SOLVE-- A SERIES OF STRANGE DISAPPEARANCES, ALL FOLLOWING SUDDEN WEDDINGS! BUT WHEN THE MYSTERY DEEPENED, AND SIMMS DISCOVERED HIS OWN BEST FRIEND INVOLVED, WHO COULD GUESS THAT HE WOULD FIND HIMSELF PURSUING A--
BRIDE OF DOOM?



IN THE OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF POLICE...

JOE, YOU'VE BEEN ON THIS DISAPPEARANCE CASE FOR WEEKS-- WITHOUT TURNING UP A THING! AND NOW YOU WANT THE AFTER-NOON OFF!

DON'T RUB IT IN, CHIEF-- IT'S THE MOST MYSTIFYING DEAL I'VE EVER FACED! BUT I'M SUPPOSED TO BE BEST MAN AT MY PAL'S WEDDING IN A COUPLE OF HOURS, AND I CAN'T LET HIM DOWN!



LATER...

I'M A LUCKY GUY, JOE, MEETING SOMEONE LIKE LORELEI! STRANGE GIRL, THOUGH-- THERE'S SOMETHING, WELL-- **UNEARTHLY** ABOUT HER! IMAGINE, SHE REFUSED TO HAVE PICTURES TAKEN AT THE WEDDING, AND SHE WON'T EVEN TELL ME THE PLACE SHE'S PICKED FOR THE HONEYMOON! ALL I KNOW IS THAT IT'S SOMEPLACE IN THE WILD COUNTRY AROUND LAKE GEORGE!



DON'T YOU THINK YOU'RE BEING A BIT... ER, NASTY, BILL? AFTER ALL, NOBODY KNOWS A THING ABOUT THE GIRL! WHY, EVEN I HAVEN'T MET HER!

THAT'S WHAT I MEAN! SHE'S SHY--STRANGE-- BUT YOU'LL GET TO KNOW HER FINE, AFTER WE GET BACK FROM OUR HONEYMOON!

AND SO, BY THE LAWS VESTED IN ME BY THIS STATE, I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU MAN AND WIFE!

FUNNY, I OUGHT TO BE GLAD ON THIS OCCASION, BUT I FIND MYSELF THINKING ABOUT THOSE OTHER WEDDINGS-- AND THE DISAPPEARANCES WHICH FOLLOWED! IF ONLY I COULD GET A LEAD, SOME ANGLE-- ANYTHING!



THE NEXT MORNING, AS THE YOUNG DETECTIVE CONTINUED HIS FRUITLESS INVESTIGATION...

I'VE COME TO SEE YOU, MISS FORSYTE, BECAUSE YOU KNEW HARRY CARTER VERY WELL! MAYBE YOU CAN GIVE ME SOME CLUE -- AS TO WHAT HAPPENED TO HIM!

I... I DON'T KNOW! HARRY AND I WERE ENGAGED -- UNTIL THAT... THAT WITCH CAME ALONG! BUT MAYBE I'D BETTER TELL YOU THE STORY FROM THE BEGINNING!



"HARRY AND I HAD GONE TO A MASQUERADE BALL TOGETHER! TOWARDS MIDNIGHT, A STRANGER APPEARED AMONG US-- A STRANGER WHO MADE THE BOYS' HEADS SPIN!"

GOSH, LINDA, I HATE TO SAY IT-- BUT WHOEVER THAT GIRL IS, SHE'S TERRIFIC!

YOU CAN SAY THAT AGAIN, BROTHER-- SHE'S FOR ME!



"BUT THE WOMAN IGNORED EVERYONE, AND CAME STRAIGHT UP TO--HARRY!"

WON'T YOU DANCE WITH ME?

WH--WHY, SURE!



"HARRY SEEMED TO FALL UNDER A SORT OF--SPELL! I SAW THEM GO OUT TO THE BALCONY..."

I'VE NEVER FELT THIS WAY ABOUT ANYONE BEFORE! YOUR LIPS-- I CAN'T RESIST THEM!



YOU DON'T HAVE TO TELL ME ANY MORE-- I'VE HEARD THIS STORY HALF A DOZEN TIMES BEFORE! HARRY AND THIS MYSTERIOUS STRANGER WERE MARRIED SOON AFTERWARDS, AND NEITHER OF THEM WERE EVER SEEN AGAIN! RIGHT?

Y--YES!



I DON'T GET IT! EITHER I'M GOING OFF MY ROCKER, OR THERE'S THE MOST DIABOLICALLY EVIL FORCE I'VE EVER HEARD ABOUT AT WORK HERE! CAN'T YOU TELL ME ANYTHING ABOUT THIS GIRL? DID SHE HAVE ANY STRANGE HABITS?



N-NO-- BUT ONE THING STRUCK ME FUNNY FOR A BRIDE-- SHE REFUSED TO HAVE ANY PICTURES TAKEN AT THE WEDDING!



WHAT? YOU'RE SURE? GREAT SCOTT, IF YOU ONLY KNEW WHERE THEY'D GONE FOR THEIR HONEYMOON!

WELL... I DID HEAR HARRY SAY SOMETHING ABOUT THE MOUNTAINS AROUND LAKE GEORGE!



HOURS LATER... LOOK HERE, MR. SIMMS, I DON'T CARE IF YOU ARE A DETECTIVE! YOU'VE GOT NO RIGHT TO RUSH ME OFF IN YOUR CAR AND DRIVE ME TO A CAMERA STORE! AND WHERE ARE WE GOING NOW?

YOU MAY AS WELL START CALLING ME JOE-- LINDA! WE'VE GOT A LONG DRIVE AHEAD OF US-- TO LAKE GEORGE! AS FOR THE CAMERA, YOU'LL FIND OUT WHY SOON ENOUGH!

LONG AFTER NIGHTFALL...

I CAN TELL YOU THIS MUCH, LINDA-- WE'RE UP AGAINST AN INCREDIBLY EVIL CREATURE! AND IF MY HUNCH IS RIGHT, WE'LL FIND YOUR HARRY AND MY PAL BILL SOMEWHERE AROUND HERE-- IF THEY'RE STILL ALIVE!

OH, I HOPE SO-- LOOK! THAT... THAT STRANGE GLOW AHEAD!



IN THE NEXT SECOND, FACING THE SIGHTLESS EYES OF A THING FROM THE BEYOND--

GREAT GUNS-- BILL!

NO, JOE-- HIS GHOST-- WARNING YOU TO GO BACK --BEFORE IT'S TO LATE!



THEN, DRIFTING OFF THROUGH THE SWIRLING MISTS...

IT-- IT'S HEADING ACROSS THOSE FIELDS! PLEASE, JOE-- LET'S GO BACK!

NOW THAT I KNOW WHAT I'M UP AGAINST, I CAN'T GO BACK! BUT I PROMISE IF YOU KEEP UP YOUR NERVE, NO HARM WILL COME TO YOU! I'VE GOT A PLAN-- AND ALL WE'VE GOT TO DO IS FOLLOW!



AFTER A STEALTHY PURSUIT OF THE GLOWING PHANTOM...

INSIDE, WHERE DARKNESS CLINGS LIKE A THREAT OF LIVING EVIL...

JOE, I'M SCARED! THAT HOUSE-- IT'S SO FORBIDDING!

YOU'LL BE OKAY, HONEY-- JUST STICK BY ME! WE'RE GOING INTO THAT PLACE!

SHHH! I WANT TO HEAR WHAT THAT CREEP HAS TO SAY, BEFORE TAKING A SNAP-SHOT! HEAR ME, MY FOLLOWERS! SATAN HIMSELF HAS ORDERED ME TO RECRUIT MORE VICTIMS FOR OUR GHASTLY RANKS! BUT WAIT! I FEEL A THREATENING PRESENCE NEARBY-- A PRESENCE NOT ONE OF US!

YOU SURE DO! AND IT SPELLS YOUR DOOM!

INTRUDERS! BRING THEM TO ME!



AFTER A SHORT, FIERCE STRUGGLE, JOE AND LINDA WERE SUBDUED! THEN...

YOU FOOL! LEARNING MY SECRET WON'T HELP YOU-- BECAUSE YOU WON'T LIVE TO LEAVE HERE ALIVE! MY WORK IS NOT YET FINISHED-- FOR I NEED **MORE** VICTIMS TO CAST UNDER MY SPELL-- TO LURE HERE UNDER THE GUISE OF A HONEYMOON! YOU KNOW NOW THE FATE WHICH MET YOUR FRIEND, AND ALL THE OTHERS-- AT THE HANDS OF ONE OF SATAN'S DISCIPLES!

GLOAT NOW, YOU DEMON! YOU DON'T HAVE MUCH TIME LEFT!

HA-HA! SO YOU'VE LEARNED THAT A DEMON CAN BE ANNIHILATED IF A PERFECT LIKENESS OF IT IS DESTROYED! YOU'VE TAKEN A PHOTOGRAPH OF ME, BUT WHAT GOOD WILL THAT DO-- WHEN YOU'LL NEVER HAVE THE CHANCE TO DEVELOP IT!

DON'T LAUGH, MONSTER-- THE PICTURE IS ALREADY DEVELOPED!



B-BUT THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE!

NOT WITH THIS NEW SELF-DEVELOPING CAMERA, IT ISN'T! IT TAKES JUST ABOUT 60 SECONDS FOR THE PICTURE TO BE BROUGHT OUT! AND ALL THE TIME YOU WERE GLOATING, YOU WERE MAKING POSSIBLE YOUR OWN DOOM!

HERE IT IS-- YOUR TRUE IMAGE! NOT THE BEAUTIFUL GIRL OUR MORTAL EYES SEE, BUT THE GRINNING DEATH MASK YOU REALLY ARE! THE CAMERA NEVER LIES!

QUICK, SEIZE IT! NO HARM MUST COME TO IT!

NOT SO FAST, CREEPS! I'VE GOT OTHER PLANS FOR THAT PHOTO!

NO-- NO! HE THREW IT IN THE FLAMES! THE FIRE-- I FEEL IT CURLING ABOUT ME ALREADY! I...



THEN, AS IF CONSUMED BY REMORSELESS TONGUES OF INVISIBLE FLAME...



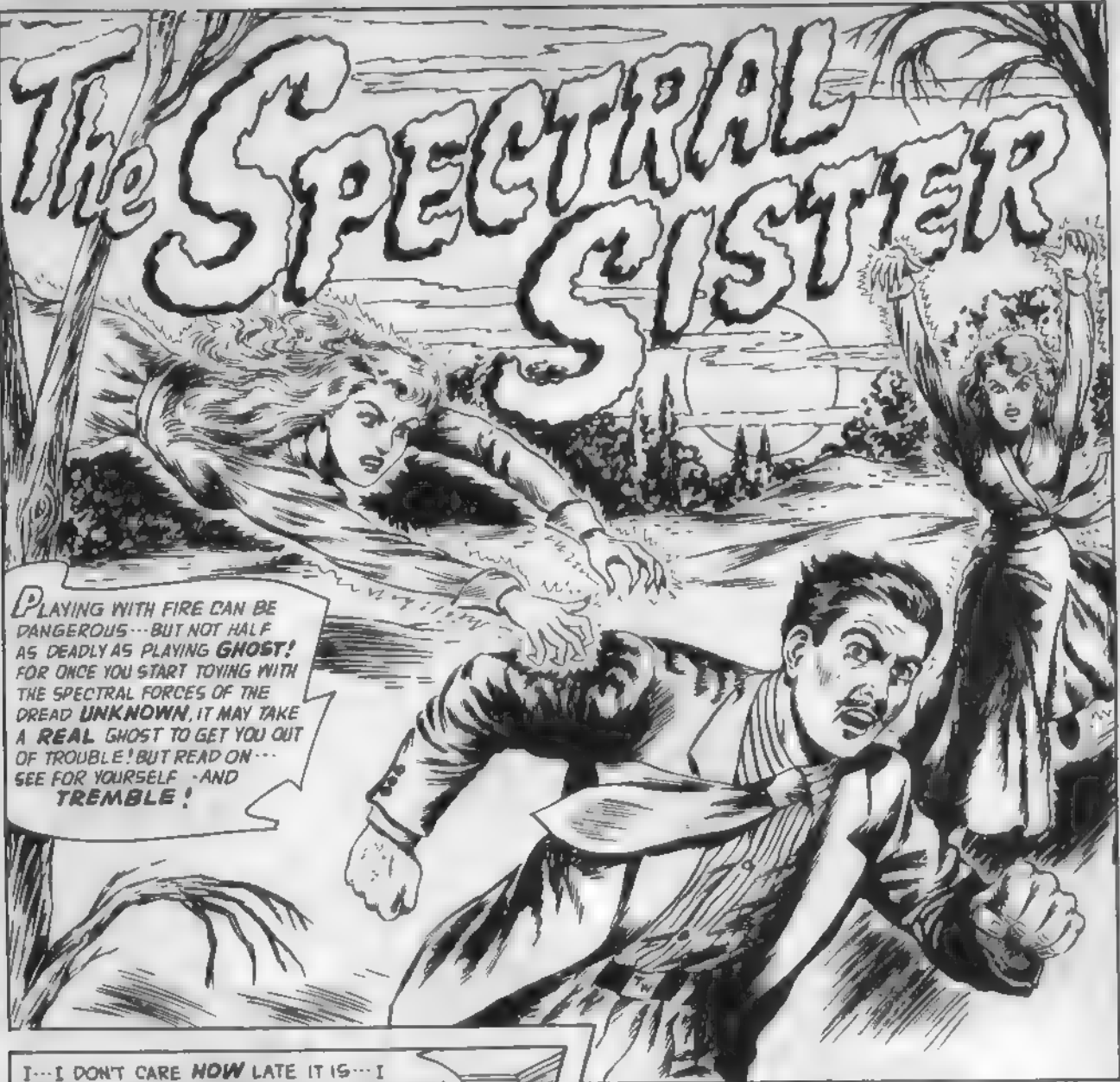
MOMENTS LATER...

IT-- IT WAS HORRIBLE. JOE! THE WHOLE PLACE WENT UP IN FLAMES-- DESTROYING HER FIENDISH PLOT FOR GOOD!

YES, HONEY-- BUT WE CAN'T BRING BACK THE VICTIMS SHE CLAIMED DURING HER REIGN OF TERROR! BUT LET'S NOT THINK ABOUT THAT! LET'S START THINKING ABOUT US-- AND HAPPIER WEDDINGS!



THE END



PLAYING WITH FIRE CAN BE DANGEROUS...BUT NOT HALF AS DEADLY AS PLAYING **GHOST!** FOR ONCE YOU START TOYING WITH THE SPECTRAL FORCES OF THE DREAD **UNKNOWN**, IT MAY TAKE A **REAL GHOST** TO GET YOU OUT OF TROUBLE! BUT READ ON... SEE FOR YOURSELF...AND **TREMBLE!**

I...I DON'T CARE **HOW** LATE IT IS...I **MUST** SPEAK TO THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY! TELL HIM THAT I'VE THOUGHT IT OVER... AND I'VE DECIDED TO TELL HIM ALL I KNOW ABOUT **TONY WALTERS!**

ALL RIGHT, MISS BEAUMONT...I'LL SWITCH YOUR CALL THROUGH TO MR. GORDON'S HOME!

OH-HHH!

HELLO... HELLO...!

NEXT MORNING, 3,000 MILES AWAY IN A HOTEL AT LONG BEACH, CALIFORNIA---



OH--
**NO...
NO!**



Long Beach D
**BEAUTIFUL SOCIAL-
ITE SLAIN-POLICE
GRILL GANGSTER
BOYFRIEND**
QUIZ TONY
WALTERS ON
ALICE BEAU-
MONT'S MURDER

OH, ALICE---ALICE!
PERHAPS IF---IF I'D
STAYED CLOSER TO
YOU THE WAY A GOOD
SISTER SHOULD, I MIGHT
HAVE BEEN ABLE TO HELP
YOU, TO KEEP YOU OUT OF
THIS---PERHAPS YOU'D BE
ALIVE NOW! BUT NOW ALL
I CAN DO IS MAKE SURE
THAT JUSTICE IS DONE
--- **THAT YOUR
MURDERER
IS PUNISHED!**

DAYS LATER---

HEY---YOU CAN'T BARGE
INTO THE D.A.'S OFFICE
LIKE THAT!

MR. GORDON,
I'M---

ALICE BEAUMONT!
I---I NEVER BELIEVED IN
GHOSTS, BUT I DO
NOW!

OFFICE OF THE
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

WM. GORDON

I'M JUNE BEAUMONT---ALICE'S
TWIN SISTER! I CAME HERE TO
FIND OUT WHETHER YOU'VE
ARRESTED ALICE'S
MURDERER YET!

WHEN YOU CERTAINLY
GAVE ME A TURN, MISS
BEAUMONT---I WAS
CERTAIN ALICE HAD COME
BACK FROM THE DEAD TO HAUNT
ME FOR NOT GETTING HER MURDER-
ER! I'M ALMOST CERTAIN THAT IT
WAS DONE BY THAT JEWEL THIEF
AND GANGSTER TONY WALTERS---
BUT HE HAD AN AIR-
TIGHT ALIBI, AND I
HAD TO LET
HIM GO!

WM. GORDON, D.A.

YOUR SISTER WAS MIXED UP WITH WALTERS---SHE'D
PROBABLY FALLEN FOR HIM BEFORE SHE FOUND OUT
WHAT HE REALLY WAS LIKE! BUT WALTERS WAS JUST
UP TO HIS OLD TRICKS---HE MERELY USED HER TO
TAKE HIM AROUND TO ALL THE HOMES OF HER
WEALTHY FRIENDS---AND AN OUTBREAK OF
JEWEL ROBBERIES SOON FOLLOWED IN
THOSE VERY SAME HOMES! I SUSPECTED
WALTERS, AND CALLED ON ALICE TO TELL

ALL SHE KNEW ABOUT
HIM---BUT SOME
REMNANT OF LOVE
AND LOYALTY PRE-
VENTED HER FROM
TALKING!

SHE MUST HAVE HAD A QUARREL WITH WALTERS ABOUT IT
---AND HE PROBABLY FOLLOWED HER HOME, KNOWING
SHE WAS ABOUT TO TALK---AND THEN KILLED HER
BEFORE SHE **COULD** TALK! WITHOUT ANY EVIDENCE,
THOUGH, WE CAN'T TOUCH WALTERS!

NOT UNLESS HE **CONFESSES**
---AND ONLY A **DEAD WOMAN**
CAN MAKE HIM DO THAT!

I FIRST GOT THE IDEA WHEN YOU SAID YOU THOUGHT I WAS **ALICE'S GHOST!** SHE'D WRITTEN ME ABOUT WALTERS...AND MENTIONED THAT SHE HADN'T TOLD HIM SHE HAD A TWIN SISTER! AND SINCE WALTERS DOESN'T KNOW ABOUT **ME**, HE MIGHT BE **FRIGHTENED** INTO CONFESSING IF HE THINKS **SHE** CAME BACK FROM THE DEAD TO HAUNT HIM!



BUT I'LL NEED **YOUR** HELP TO GO THROUGH WITH MY PLAN! I WANT YOU TO TELL ME WHAT KIND OF CLOTHES ALICE WAS WEARING WHEN SHE WAS MURDERED! THOSE, PLUS SOME PHOSPHORESCENT PAINT MIGHT MAKE A MIGHTY CONVINCING **SPECTER!**

SORRY MISS BEAUMONT...IT'S TOO RISKY! WALTERS **MIGHT** BE SCARED ENOUGH TO **SHOOT...**AND I DON'T WANT **TWO** DEAD BEAUMONTS ON MY HANDS!



THEN I'LL DO IT **WITHOUT** YOUR HELP...AND YOU CAN'T STOP ME! I'M WILLING TO RISK MY LIFE TO PROVE I CAN TERRIFY HIM INTO CONFESSING!

NO, WAIT...**YOU WIN!** I CAN'T LET YOU GO INTO THIS **ALONE!**



LATER, THE HEADQUARTERS OF TONY WALTERS...

I WONDER HOW THE BOSS IS MAKIN' OUT SELLIN' THAT LAST HAUL O' ROCKS TO THE FENCE? HE OUGHTA GET AT LEAST A HUNNERT GRAND FER IT!

L...LOOK!



AM I SEEIN' T'INGS?

IT...IT'S DA **BEAUMONT** DAME...COME BACK TA HAUNT US!

GO...GO...BEFORE I REVENGE MYSELF ON YOU!





GO...LEAVE THIS HOUSE AND NEVER RETURN!

L...LET'S BEAT IT, BOYS!

NO...IT'S ONLY A TRICK! HOT LEAD FROM A .45 OUGHTA TAKE CARE O' THIS PHONEY GHOST!



THE---THE BULLETS ARE GOIN' RIGHT THROUGH HER---BUT SHE KEEPS COMIN' ON!

FOOL---YOU CANNOT KILL THE DEAD!

BANG!
BANG!
BANG!

THIS PHOSPHORESCENT PAINT CERTAINLY MAKES ME LOOK GHOSTLY ENOUGH--- I EVEN SCARE MYSELF!



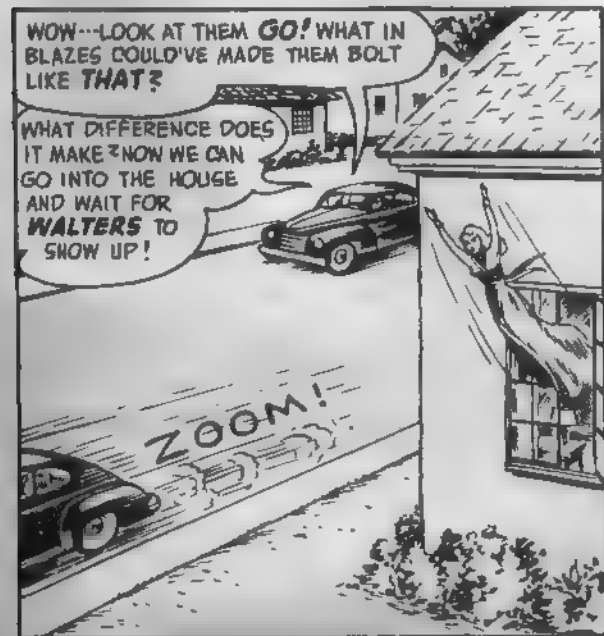
FLEE...BEFORE MY WRATH STRIKES YOU DOWN!

LET'S GET OUT OF TOWN ---FAST!



AT THAT MOMENT---

WE'LL SOON FIND OUT WHAT EFFECT IT HAS ON OTHERS---THERE'S WALTERS' HOUSE UP AHEAD! WE'VE HAD IT WATCHED, SO WE KNOW HE ISN'T HOME NOW! BUT HIS GANGMEN ARE---AND THERE THEY COME NOW!



WOW---LOOK AT THEM GO! WHAT IN BLAZES COULD'VE MADE THEM BOLT LIKE THAT?

WHAT DIFFERENCE DOES IT MAKE NOW WE CAN GO INTO THE HOUSE AND WAIT FOR WALTERS TO SHOW UP!

ZOOM!



MEANWHILE---

GOODBYE, MR. WALTERS---IT WAS A PLEASURE TO DO BUSINESS WITH YOU!

A PLEASURE FOR YOU! YOU'LL SELL THOSE HOT JEWELS FOR 300 GRAND ---AND YOU ONLY PAID ME A THIRD OF THAT!

OH WELL, I CAN'T COMPLAIN---I CLEANED UP PLENTY IN THIS BURG ---THANKS TO THAT DUMB ALICE BEAUMONT!

JEWELRY
GEMS
BOUGHT
AND
SOLD

TOO BAD I HAD TO BUMP HER OFF---SHE MUST'VE HAD A FEW MORE FRIENDS I COULD'VE ROBBERED! I'LL HAVE TO GO TO SOME OTHER TOWN NOW---AND START THE WHOLE RACKET OVER, IF I CAN LOCATE A SUCKER LIKE ALICE!



MUH? I---I'D BETTER STOP THE CAR---I'M SEEIN' THINGS!



I'VE COME FOR YOU---MURDERER!

THOSE---THOSE HANDS---LIKE ICE---LIKE THE TOUCH OF DEATH! GET AWAY FROM ME---WHATEVER YOU ARE!



THE---THE BULLETS DON'T STOP HER---I'VE GOT TO GET OUT OF HERE!



BANG! BANG! BANG!

FOOL---YOU CAN NEVER ESCAPE ME!



ARGH!



GET BACK TO THE CAR---DO AS I SAY---OR I'LL PLUCK YOUR BLACK HEART OUT!

I---I'VE GOT TO KEEP MY HEAD! NOW THAT I KNOW THIS THING IS REAL, I CAN THINK UP A WAY TO OUTWIT IT---I'VE GOTTEN OUT OF TIGHTER SPOTS THAN THIS!





HEY, BOYS---I GOT THE DOUGH! HEY---WHERE IN BLAZES ARE YOU ALL?



YOU! THEN I
---I **DIDN'T**
GET RID OF
YOU!



YOU CAN **NEVER** GET RID OF ME! I'LL HAUNT YOU TILL THE DAY YOU DIE, TONY WALTERS
---UNLESS YOU SIGN A CONFESSION THAT YOU MURDERED ME!



THERE IT IS---
SIGN IT OR
I'LL---



NO---NO---I
---I COULDN'T
STAND YOUR ICY
FINGERS AGAIN!
I'LL SIGN
IT!



WHAT DID HE MEAN, HE COULDN'T STAND MY ICY FINGERS AGAIN? I MUST'VE FRIGHTENED HIM OUT OF HIS MIND!



THERE---IT'S
SIGNED! NOW
WILL YOU STOP
HAUNTING ME
---AS YOU
PROMISED?

YES, SHE'LL STOP
---BUT NOW THE
LAW WILL
START HAUNTING
YOU!



HUH?
WHAT'S THE
D.A. DOING
HERE?



ALL RIGHT, JUNE
---YOU CAN DROP THE
MASQUERADE
NOW!



TONY, ALLOW ME TO
INTRODUCE **JUNE**
BEAUMONT---ALICE'S
TWIN SISTER!



THEN IT---IT WAS ALL
A **TRICK**---THERE
NEVER WAS ANY
GHOST!

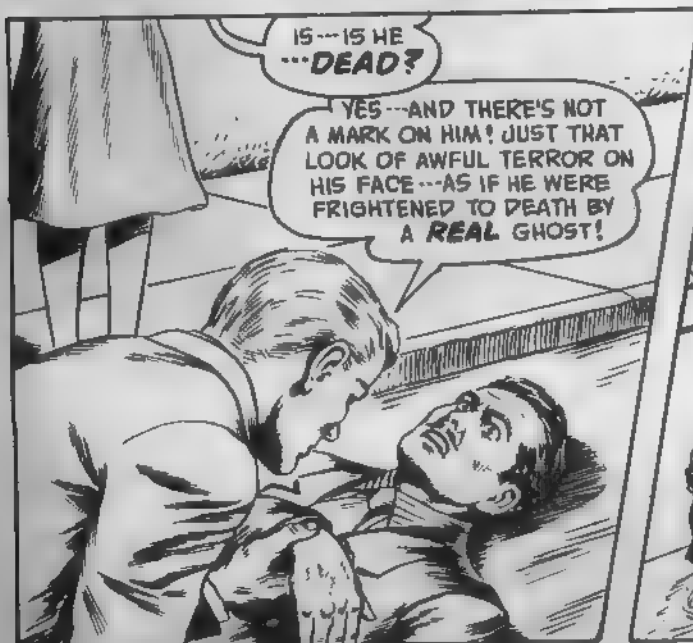


OF COURSE
NOT, STUPID! AND
NOW, IF YOU'LL EX-
CUSE ME, I'M GOING
TO WASH OFF THIS
PHOSPHORESCENT
PAINT!



I'VE GOT A TRICK
UP MY SLEEVE, TOO
---MY **FIST!**





The SLEEP OF DEATH



WERE YOU ONE OF THOSE COUNTLESS NEW YORKERS WHO SUDDENLY FELT VERY SLEEPY ON A RECENT, BRISK AUTUMN DAY? DID YOU SUDDENLY WANT A CAT-NAP AT YOUR JOB...DID YOU DOZE OFF AT THE WHEEL OF YOUR CAR AND HAVE A MILD ACCIDENT THAT DAY? IF YOU WONDERED, WHEN YOU AWOKE, WHAT HAD HAPPENED TO THOSE FEW LOST HOURS, THEN READ THESE HITHERTO UNPUBLISHED DETAILS OF HOW A U.S. SECRET SERVICE AGENT SAVED AMERICA FROM A VICIOUS DICTATORSHIP AND PREVENTED YOUR SLEEP FROM BECOMING...

THE SLEEP OF DEATH!

OUR STORY BEGINS ON ONE OF NEW YORK'S TEEMING STREET CORNERS...

...AND AMERICA FOR AMERICANS IS THE ONLY ORGANIZATION THAT IS FIGHTING TO KEEP THESE HORDES OF DISPLACED PERSONS OUT OF THIS COUNTRY! JOIN OUR FIGHT! HELP US KEEP AMERICA PURE BY TEACHING EVEN THE FOREIGN-BORN CITIZEN THAT HE IS NOT WANTED HERE, BY BEATING IT INTO HIM THAT AMERICA IS ONLY FOR AMERICANS!

WHY, THAT'S FAGGIST TALK! THIS IS A DEMOCRACY... WE DON'T WANT YOUR HATE-MONGERING!



THIS IS THE LAND OF THE FREE...EVERYONE SHOULD BE ALLOWED IN! AND NO MATTER WHERE HE'S BORN, A CITIZEN IS A CITIZEN!

OH HH!

YOU UN-AMERICAN DOG! THIS'LL SHUT YOU UP!

WHY, YOU...! LET HIM ALONE!



NOBODY WILL BE ALLOWED TO STAND IN THE WAY OF AMERICA FOR AMERICANS IN OUR VICTORIOUS MARCH TO POWER! WE ARE THOUSANDS STRONG, AND SOON WE WILL BE MILLIONS!

THE DIRTY DEMAGOGUE! LETTING HIS THUGS ROUGH UP AN OLD MAN LIKE THAT---

COME ON AWAY, DON! LET THE POLICE HANDLE THIS--- WE'VE GOT OUR OWN WORK TO DO!

I GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT---WE DON'T HAVE TIME TO GET MIXED UP IN THIS! BUT IT'S A SHAME THE WAY FASCIST ORGANIZATIONS LIKE THAT MISUSE THE RIGHT OF FREE SPEECH---AND THEN DENY FREE SPEECH TO ANYONE WHO OPPOSES OR CRITICIZES THEM!

FORGET ABOUT IT--- STOPPING OFF AT THAT STREET MEETING ALREADY MADE US TEN MINUTES LATE GETTING TO DR. OPPENHEIM'S LAB!

I HAVE ALREADY PRODUCED A NUMBER OF TANKS OF THE GAS, BUT EVEN ONE TANKFUL---DISPERSED FROM A HIGH ALTITUDE OVER THE CITY--- WOULD BE ENOUGH TO PUT EVERYONE WITHIN A RADIUS OF TWENTY MILES INTO A DEEP SLEEP! AND SINCE THE GAS WOULD BE OF INCALCULABLE VALUE IN A WAR, IT WILL BE UP TO YOU TO SEE THAT NONE OF IT GETS INTO UNAUTHORIZED HANDS!

FEW MINUTES LATER---

DR. OPPENHEIM? U.S. SECRET SERVICE--- WE'VE RELIEVED THE PREVIOUS TWO AGENTS WHO WERE GUARDING YOU! WE'LL BE TAKING TURNS PROTECTING YOU AND THE LAB TWENTY-FOUR HOURS A DAY!

AH, GOOD! I AM NOW PUTTING THE FINISHING TOUCHES ON THE ONLY KIND OF A MASK THAT'S A PROTECTION AGAINST MY NEW ANESTHETIC GAS!



TWO DAYS LATER--- A STRANGE PHONE CALL COMES THROUGH---

THIS IS THE SUPERINTENDENT OF THE APARTMENT HOUSE NEXT DOOR! A NUMBER OF MY TENANTS HAVE BEEN COMPLAINING OF FEELING DROWSY THE LAST FEW HOURS, AND THEY THINK IT MIGHT BE FROM SOME STUFF YOU'RE PRODUCING IN YOUR LAB!

WHAT? I'LL LOOK RIGHT INTO IT!

QUICK, IN HERE! ONE OF THE TANKS OF GAS MUST HAVE SPRUNG A LEAK--- I'LL HAVE TO OPEN THE SECRET VAULT AND CHECK EACH ONE!

HERE---YOU'D BETTER PUT ON YOUR MASK IF THERE'S A LEAK! I'LL TRY HOLDING MY BREATH!





HA, THAT FAKE PHONE CALL REALLY DID THE TRICK! QUICK, INTO THE SECRET VAULT!

BANG!



JUST SOMEONE WHO WANTS THAT MASK... NOW THAT YOU WON'T EVER WEAR IT AGAIN!...ALL RIGHT, BOYS, START BRINGING THOSE TANKS DOWN TO THE TRUCK! AND HURRY IT...THE NEXT GUARD RELIEF MAY BE HERE ANY MINUTE!

BANG!
BANG!

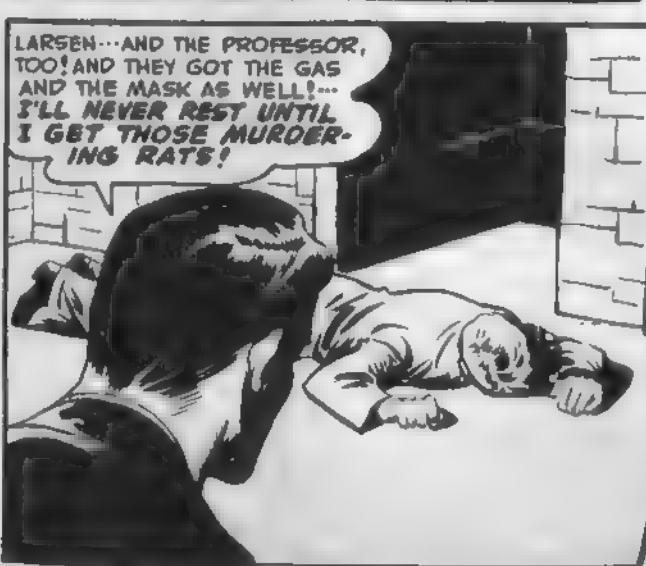


I'M A COUPLE OF MINUTES LATE IN RELIEVING LAR... HUN? THOSE ARE THE TANKS OF ANESTHETIC GAS!

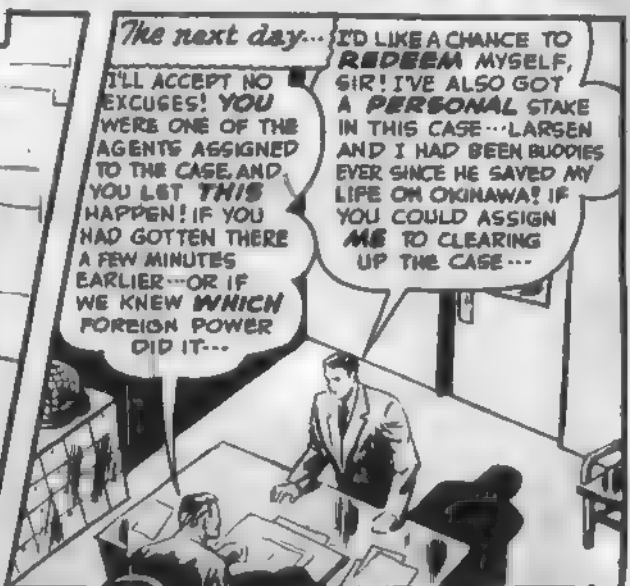
STOP!



TOO LATE...THEY'LL GET LOST IN THE TRAFFIC DOWN THE STREET! I'D BETTER SEE ABOUT THE LAB!



LARSEN...AND THE PROFESSOR, TOO! AND THEY GOT THE GAS AND THE MASK AS WELL!... I'LL NEVER REST UNTIL I GET THOSE MURDERING RATS!



The next day... I'LL ACCEPT NO EXCUSES! YOU WERE ONE OF THE AGENTS ASSIGNED TO THE CASE, AND YOU LET THIS HAPPEN! IF YOU HAD GOTTEN THERE A FEW MINUTES EARLIER...OR IF WE KNEW WHICH FOREIGN POWER DID IT...

I'D LIKE A CHANCE TO REDEEM MYSELF, SIR! I'VE ALSO GOT A PERSONAL STAKE IN THIS CASE...LARSEN AND I HAD BEEN BUDDIES EVER SINCE HE SAVED MY LIFE ON OKINAWA! IF YOU COULD ASSIGN ME TO CLEARING UP THE CASE...

WELL, ALL RIGHT, I'LL PLAY A HUNCH AND LET YOU FOLLOW THROUGH ON IT! BUT I'LL GIVE YOU ONLY **TWO WEEKS** TO GET THE GAS AND THE MASK BACK! IF YOU HAVEN'T SUCCEEDED BY THEN, I'LL ASSIGN AN AGENT WHO CAN DO THE JOB!



THIS IS THE ONLY THING HE HAD ON HIM THAT CAN BE TRACED! BUT THIS IS NO EVIDENCE IN ITSELF... A LOT OF HOODLUMS AND RATS BELONG TO THAT FASCIST-MINDED ORGANIZATION! HMM... THIS DEMAGOGUE, HAROLD G-WADE **DOES** HAVE AMBITIONS FOR POWER, AND IF HE'S THINKING OF USING FORCE, HE'D WANT THAT GAS! I MIGHT AS WELL LOOK INTO IT... ESPECIALLY SINCE I HAVE NO OTHER LEAD!



AH, THOSE STUNT MEN I HIRED TIMED IT PERFECTLY... THE STREETS ARE EMPTY AROUND HERE!



WHA... THEY'RE CUTTIN' ME OFF! WHY DONTCHA LOOK WHERE YER GOIN'?

DON'T STOP! THEY MUST HAVE BEEN FOLLOWING US...

ALL RIGHT, GET OUT OF THERE, WADE! WE'RE GOING TO TEACH YOU WHAT IT FEELS LIKE TO BE BEATEN UP... WE'LL SHOW YOU THAT AMERICA DOESN'T WANT YOUR MASTER RACE BALONEY OR YOUR DICTATORSHIP MALARKY!



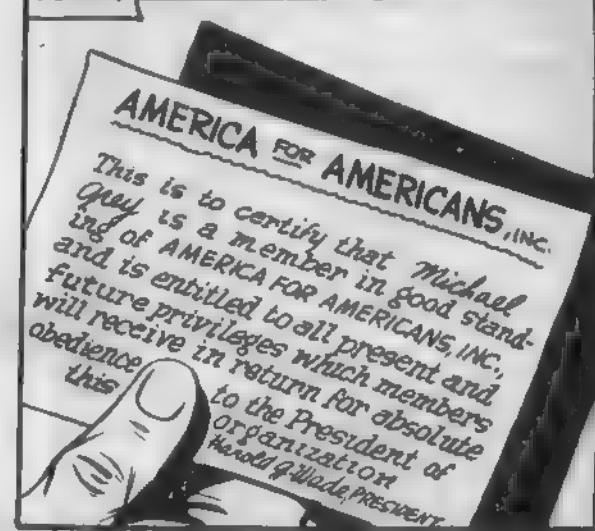
WHY, YOU... NOBODY'S GONNA LAY A HAND ON MY PASSENGERS!

AND WHO'S GOING TO STOP US... **OWWW!**



I AM! **CABBY DON FARR!**

AGENT DONALD FARR, DESPERATELY SEARCHING FOR A CLUE, WENT THROUGH THE BELONGINGS FOUND IN THE POCKETS OF THE MAN HE HAD SHOT DEAD OUTSIDE THE LAB... AND FOUND ONLY ONE SLIM LEAD!



LATER THAT DAY, IN FRONT OF THE HEADQUARTERS OF AMERICA FOR AMERICANS...



TAXI, MISTER?

YES... AND WE'RE IN A HURRY!



HOW DO YA LIKE IT?---I USED TO BE A CARNIVAL RASSLER!

LET'S BEAT IT! WE'D NEED A DOZEN MEN TO KAYO THAT CRAZY WILDCAT!



THAT WAS QUITE A FIGHT YOU PUT UP! I COULD USE A MAN LIKE YOU FOR A BODYGUARD... ESPECIALLY SINCE YOU LOOK LIKE A PURE AMERICAN TYPE! HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO JOIN AMERICA FOR AMERICANS?

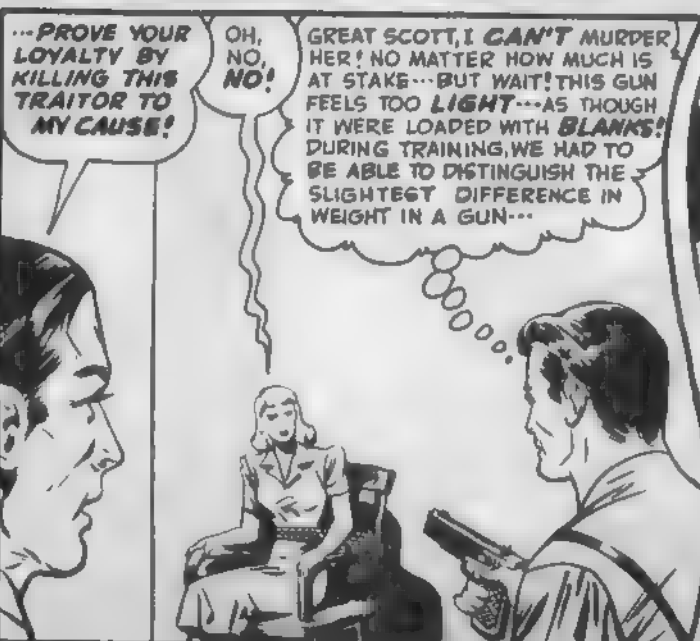
I SURE WOULD---AS LONG AS I'M GONNA BE A BODYGUARD! I ALWAYS WANTED TO JOIN UP, BUT I DIDN'T WANNA BE JUST ANOTHER STOOGES!

The next night...

AND THIS IS THE OATH THAT ALL NEW MEMBERS OF AMERICA FOR AMERICANS MUST TAKE--- "I SWEAR TO OBEY MY LEADER WITH MY LAST DROP OF BLOOD, TO OPPOSE ALL INFERIOR RACES IN AMERICA, AND TO DESTROY ALL WHO STAND IN THE WAY OF MY LEADER'S RISE TO POWER!" SWEAR!



FOR YOU, THERE'S ANOTHER STEP IN THE INITIATION! I HAVE TO BE CERTAIN OF THE LOYALTY OF MY BODYGUARD, AND SO I'M GOING TO SHOW YOU WHAT HAPPENS TO THOSE WHO BETRAY ME! HERE, FIRST TAKE MY PISTOL, AND THEN---



---PROVE YOUR LOYALTY BY KILLING THIS TRAITOR TO MY CAUSE!

OH, NO, NO!

GREAT SCOTT, I CAN'T MURDER HER! NO MATTER HOW MUCH IS AT STAKE---BUT WAIT! THIS GUN FEELS TOO LIGHT---AS THOUGH IT WERE LOADED WITH **BLANKS**! DURING TRAINING, WE HAD TO BE ABLE TO DISTINGUISH THE SLIGHTEST DIFFERENCE IN WEIGHT IN A GUN---



---AND NOW I'LL HAVE TO TAKE THE LONG CHANCE THAT THIS IS A TEST---AND THAT MY TRAINING WILL PAY OFF!

WELL, IF SHE'S A TRAITOR, SHE'LL SOON BE A DEAD ONE!

NO N-OHHHH!

I...I'VE KILLED HER! I WAS WRONG ABOUT THE BULLETS ... SHE'S DEAD!

GREAT WORK, FARR! NOW THAT YOU'VE PROVED YOUR LOYALTY, I'VE GOT **IMPORTANT NEWS** FOR YOU!

YOU'RE IN SOLIDLY WITH US, SO I CAN TELL YOU THAT OUR ORGANIZATION TOOK A STEP LAST WEEK THAT WILL END UP WITH OUR **EVENTUAL CONTROL OF THE ENTIRE COUNTRY!** I CAN'T TELL YOU ANY MORE NOW, BUT WHEN WE HAVE THE POWER, I'LL MAKE **YOU LEADER** OF MY ELITE GUARD!

I...I'LL HAVE TO GET HER OUT OF MY MIND! IT WAS A FATAL ERROR, BUT I STILL HAVE MY **WORK** TO DO...ESPECIALLY NOW THAT I KNOW THIS **WENTAC WAS CAPABLE** OF STEALING THE GAS, AND PROBABLY DID!



IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS, DONALD FARR PERFORMED MANY SERVICES FOR THE WOULD-BE DICTATOR, WADE! FOR EXAMPLE, AT A RALLY HELD ON THE WATER-FRONT, WHERE STEVEDORES OF ALL RACES MINGLE EQUALLY...

YOU'RE JUST ANOTHER HITLER! WE DON'T WANT THAT RACE-HATED JUNK HERE!

QUICK, GET IN THE CAR, BOSS! I'LL COVER YOU!

I HATE DOING THIS, BUT I'VE GOT TO!



WHILE AT THE SECRET DRILL-HALL AT HEADQUARTERS...

ALL RIGHT, YOU MEN...YOU'RE ALL GONNA BE **SOLDIERS** IN OUR BATTLE FOR POWER...SO **MARCH LIKE SOLDIERS!**

WH, YOU'RE A PERFECT DRILL-MASTER, FARR! WHEN THE TIME COMES FOR US TO STRIKE, WE'LL HAVE A SMALL **ARMY** BEHIND US!



And later... VIRGINIA, I WANT YOU TO MEET ONE OF OUR MOST PROMISING NEW RECRUITS... **DONALD FARR!** THIS IS MY DAUGHTER, FARR --AND THE REASON I'M INTRODUCING YOU IS BECAUSE I'M GROOMING YOU FOR A POST AS MY RIGHT-HAND MAN, AND YOU TWO WILL HAVE TO **WORK TOGETHER!**



I'M GLAD TO KNOW YOU, MR. FARR! I'VE HEARD SO MUCH ABOUT YOU!

THAT--THAT SCAR ON HER HAND! THE SAME AS THE SCAR ON THE GIRL I THOUGHT I KILLED! IT WAS A TEST... SHE MUST HAVE WORN A WIG! THEY WANTED ME TO THINK I'D MURDERED THE GIRL, SO THEY'D HAVE SOMETHING ON ME AND I'D NEVER DARE BE-TRAY THEM!



The next day...

DON'T ASK ME WHY DAD WANTED US TO MAKE DRAWINGS OF ALL THE ENTRANCES AND EXITS TO THE EMPIRE STATE BUILDING...AND SKETCHES OF THE TOWER! HE JUST SAID TO MAKE SURE WE'RE VERY ACCURATE!

HMM, SOMETHING'S COOKING...AND SHE **MUST** KNOW! EVEN THOUGH SHE'S AS BAD AS HER FATHER, I'D BETTER START MAKING A PLAY FOR HER! IF SHE FALLS FOR ME, I CAN PUMP HER FOR INFORMATION! AND IT'LL BE EASY PLAYING UP TO HER...SHE'S **BEAUTIFUL ENOUGH!**



BUT AGENT DONALD FARR FOUND HIMSELF FALLING--UNCONSCIOUSLY, HE BEGAN TO BE DRAWN BY VIRGINIA'S LOVELINESS AND CHARM! AND HE HAD TO KEEP TELLING HIMSELF THAT HE WAS TAKING HER OUT ONLY IN THE LINE OF DUTY, AND THAT **DUTY CAME FIRST!**



Then, a few nights later...

I...I CAN'T CONTROL MYSELF! HER EYES... HER LIPS...

OH, DON--
DARLING!



WHAT IN BLAZES AM I **DOING?** I DON'T EVEN **DESERVE** BEING A GOVERNMENT AGENT IF I LOSE CONTROL LIKE THAT! I...I'D BE BETRAYING MY COUNTRY, FALLING IN LOVE WITH **HER!** I'D BETTER FINISH THIS CASE UP **FAST!**

BUT THAT KISS... HE CERTAINLY **DID** MEAN IT! HE'S BEEN ACTING VERY PECULIARLY LATELY...WHY DID HE BREAK AWAY JUST NOW? AND WHY'S HE BEEN ASKING ME ALL THOSE **QUESTIONS?** ...I THINK I'LL KEEP AN EYE ON HIM AND FIND OUT!

I...I DIDN'T MEAN THAT, VIRGINIA! COME ON, I'LL TAKE YOU BACK TO HEAD-QUARTERS!



JUST BEFORE DAWN...

THE SOONER I WIND THIS CASE UP AND PUT HER BEHIND BARS, THE BETTER OFF I'LL BE! AND MAYBE THESE SECRET FILES WILL TELL ME WHY THERE WAS SUCH AN AIR OF TENSE **EXCITEMENT** AROUND HEADQUARTERS TONIGHT! LUCKY MY SPECIAL KEYS GOT ME INTO THIS ROOM!



AH, **HERE'S** SOMETHING!--PLANG GOES INTO EFFECT TOMORROW! BUT WHAT IN TARNATION IS **PLANG?** I'VE GOT TO FIND OU... **EH?** WHAT'S THAT **NOISE?**



THE ROOM IS SUDDENLY FLOODED WITH LIGHT!

YOU!
BUT
HOW---?

YES, ME! I SUSPECTED YOU
WHEN YOU STARTED ASKING
ME ALL THOSE QUESTIONS,
AND THERE WAS SOMETHING
FISHY ABOUT YOUR BREAK-
ING AWAY FROM THAT KISS!
AND NOW I **KNOW** YOU
FOR WHAT YOU ARE---
A **SPY**!

BUT I KNOW YOU
LOVE ME, VIRGINIA
---YOU **CAN'T**
BETRAY ME!
AND I---

EVEN IF I **DO** LOVE YOU, DO
YOU THINK I'D **DARE** BETRAY
MY FATHER? THIS ALARM
BELL WILL SHOW YOU WHO HAS
THE **STRONGEST** HOLD OVER ME!

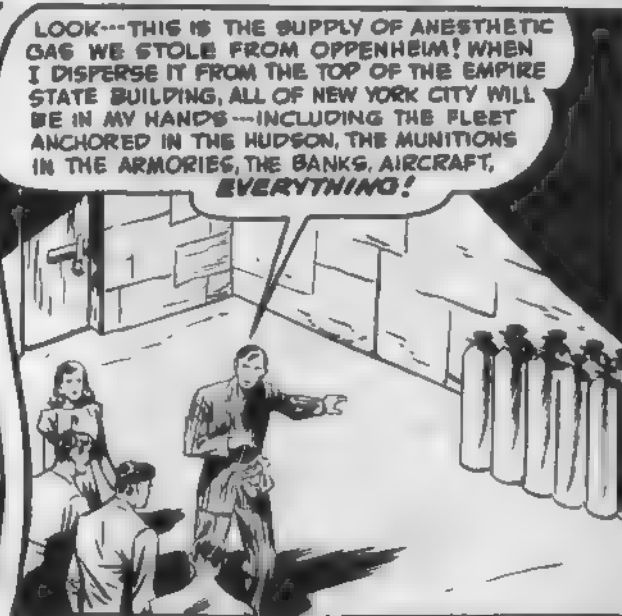


Minutes later...

ALL RIGHT, WADE, YOU'VE
GOT ME---BUT YOU **CAN'T**
FIGHT THE WHOLE U.S.
GOVERNMENT! AND I'D
SUGGEST YOU BE CAREFUL
OF WHAT HAPPENS TO
ME, OR THE WHOLE SECRET
SERVICE WILL MAKE YOU
ANSWER FOR IT PERSONALLY!

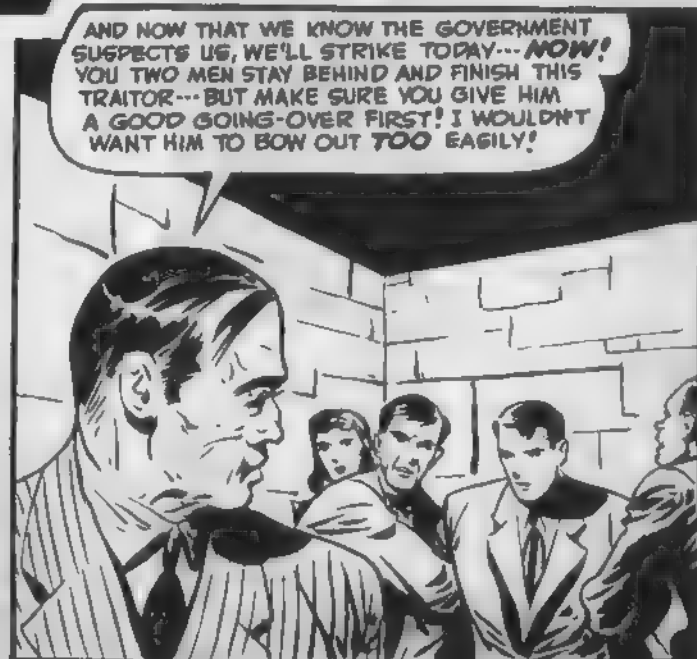
WHY, YOU STUPID
SPY! DO YOU THINK
THAT I---HAROLD WADE
---AM AFRAID OF A SOFT,
DEMOCRATIC GOVERN-
MENT?---BRING HIM
DOWN TO THE VAULT,
AND I'LL SHOW
HIM HOW AFRAID
I AM!

LOOK---THIS IS THE SUPPLY OF ANESTHETIC
GAS WE STOLE FROM OPPENHEIM! WHEN
I DISPERSE IT FROM THE TOP OF THE EMPIRE
STATE BUILDING, ALL OF NEW YORK CITY WILL
BE IN MY HANDS---INCLUDING THE FLEET
ANCHORED IN THE HUDSON, THE MUNITIONS
IN THE ARMORIES, THE BANKS, AIRCRAFT,
EVERYTHING!



"**TODAY NEW YORK--- AND
TOMORROW AMERICA! THE
MASTER MASK TAKEN FROM
OPPENHEIM WILL PROTECT ME
FROM THE GAS! AND ALTHOUGH
THE OTHER MASKS WE'VE
MANUFACTURED FROM THIS
MODEL ARE INFERIOR, THEY'LL
BE ENOUGH TO PROTECT MY
MEN FROM THE CONCENTRA-
TION OF GAS I INTEND USING!
AND WITH OUR SUCCESS, OUR
MEMBERSHIP WILL MULTIPLY
UNTIL THIS COUP IS REPEATED
ALL OVER THE COUNTRY
AND WE ALONE ARE IN
POWER!**"

AND NOW THAT WE KNOW THE GOVERNMENT
SUSPECTS US, WE'LL STRIKE TODAY---**NOW!**
YOU TWO MEN STAY BEHIND AND FINISH THIS
TRAITOR---BUT MAKE SURE YOU GIVE HIM
A GOOD GOING-OVER FIRST! I WOULDN'T
WANT HIM TO BOW OUT TOO EASILY!



HERE FOLLOWED MOMENTS OF AGONY FOR DON! THEN--AS HIS TORTURER'S PREPARED TO EXECUTE HIM---

WE FOOLED AROUND WITH YA LONG ENOUGH, BUDDY! NOW GET READY TO--**AH-HH!**

BANG!
BANG!

WELL, YOU'VE SAVED ME, BUT I ONLY HOPE IT'S NOT TOO LATE FOR US TO SAVE THE CITY--AND AMERICA! IT'S NO USE PHONING THE POLICE OR THE ARMY--THE GAS WILL BE KNOCKING THEM OUT IN A FEW MORE MINUTES! LET'S GET A COUPLE OF MASKS AND SEE WHAT WE CAN DO--**AT THE EMPIRE STATE BUILDING!**

VIRGINIA!

YES, DON, I--I HAD TO DO IT! I'VE ALWAYS HATED MY FATHER'S IDEAS, HIS MOVEMENT! BUT I WAS AFRAID OF HIM, TERRIBLY AFRAID OF HIS ANGER! YOU SEE, HE--HE WAS DEADLY WHEN AROUSED! BUT WHEN I HEARD WHAT HE WAS ACTUALLY

PLANNING TO DO, MY LOVE FOR AMERICA--AND FOR YOU--WAS STRONGER THAN MY FEAR OF HIM!

WHILE AT THE EMPIRE STATE BUILDING TOWER, HAVING OVERPOWERED THE FEW BUILDING GUARDS--

IN A FEW MORE MINUTES, ALL OF NEW YORK CITY WILL BE IN A DEAD STUPOR--AND THEN OUR WAITING MEN WILL TAKE OVER THE FLEET, THE ARMORIES, THE PLANES! **HERE GOES!**

LOOK--IT'S STARTED! THE GAS IS MAKING DRIVERS FALL ASLEEP AT THEIR WHEELS! I--I HATE TO THINK OF WHAT'S HAPPENING TO THE REST OF NEW YORK!

AND THROUGHOUT THE CITY, A SUDDEN, OVERWHELMING SLUMBER STRIKES AT ALL!

IN A FEW MORE MINUTES, EVERY SAILOR WILL BE ASLEEP! AND WHILE **WE** STRIKE AT THE SHIPS, THE REST OF THE BOYS WILL BE HITTING THE BANKS, THE ARMORIES, THE AIRFIELDS...!



WHILE AT THAT MOMENT...

LUCKY THE MASK COVERS MY FACE... THESE GUARDS WILL THINK I'M ONE OF THE MOB! IT'LL BE MY PASSPORT RIGHT UP TO THE TOP OF THE TOWER!



WHO'S THAT MAN? I GAVE STRICT ORDERS NO ONE ELSE WAS TO COME UP HERE ON PENALTY OF DEATH! SHOOT HIM DOWN!

IF YOU CAN!



THE GUN'S EMPTY... LUCKILY FOR YOU, RAT!

OH-HH!

WHY, YOU MEDDLING...!



AND I'M NOT THROUGH MEDDLING WITH YOU!



WITH MANIACAL STRENGTH AND FURY, WADE LUNGES!

I'LL KILL YOU...!

I... KNOCKED HIS MASK OFF... BUT... HE'S CHOKING ME... CAN'T BREATHE...!



WITH A LAST DESPERATE BURST OF ENERGY, AGENT DONALD FARR THRUSTS UPWARD WITH TERRIFIC FORCE!

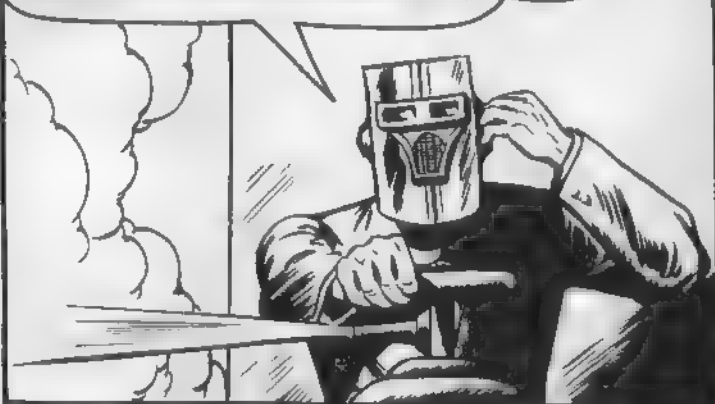
OH-HH...





**HELP!
HELP!**

NOW TO STOP THE REST OF THEM FROM SEIZING THE FLEET AND THE CITY---AND THERE'S ONLY **ONE** WAY TO DO THAT! IF I **INCREASE** THE CONCENTRATION OF GAS, **THEY'LL** BE OVERCOME TOO---BECAUSE THEIR INFERIOR MASKS WON'T BE ABLE TO KEEP THAT MUCH GAS OUT! AND SINCE I HAVE THE MASTER MASK, I'LL BE ABLE TO ACT AFTER THEY'VE CONKED OUT!



THEN---AFTER WAITING FOR THE ATMOSPHERE TO CLEAR---DONALD FARR RUSHES A CALL THROUGH TO THE PENTAGON BUILDING IN WASHINGTON!

---AND I'VE ALREADY TURNED THE GAS OFF---THE PEOPLE WILL BE RECOVERING IN A FEW HOURS! GET THE ARMY TROOPS IN FROM THE NEARBY CAMPS AND HAVE THEM SCOUR THE CITY FOR EVERYONE WHO'S SLEEPING IN THE STREETS WITH A MASK ON! THAT'LL ROUND UP THE **WHOLE MOB!**

AND SO, IN A FEW MINUTES, WADE'S WAITING MEN SUCCUMB TO THE INCREASED GAS CONCENTRATION!

THESE MASKS---THEY'RE NO GOOD---WE'RE ALL--- FALLING ASLEEP--- OHH---



Later... A MAGNIFICENT PIECE OF WORK, FARR! WITH THE MEMBERSHIP LISTS WE'VE GEIZED, THE THREAT IS OVER! BUT YOU'VE DONE MORE THAN THAT--- YOU'VE WOKEN AMERICA OUT OF ITS SLEEP AND MADE IT REALIZE THE DANGER OF EVERY NATIVE FASCIST HATE ORGANIZATION!



YOU KNOW, DARLING, YOU EVEN PUT ME TO SLEEP WITH THAT GAS---AND I'M STILL DROWSY!

YOU ARE? WELL, LET'S SEE IF THIS'LL WAKE YOU UP! AND THIS TIME, I **WON'T** BREAK AWAY!



**THE
END**

SINCE TIME IMMEMORIAL
MEN HAVE FEARED FOG...
THE GREY, SODDEN CLOAK
IN WHICH DEATH OFTEN
LURKED! BUT NO MAN
FEARED FOG MORE THAN
AMOS TAINÉ! FOR IT WAS
ONLY THEN THAT THE
GHASTLY SPECTER CAME
TO HIM...

SHADOW

IN THE

MIST



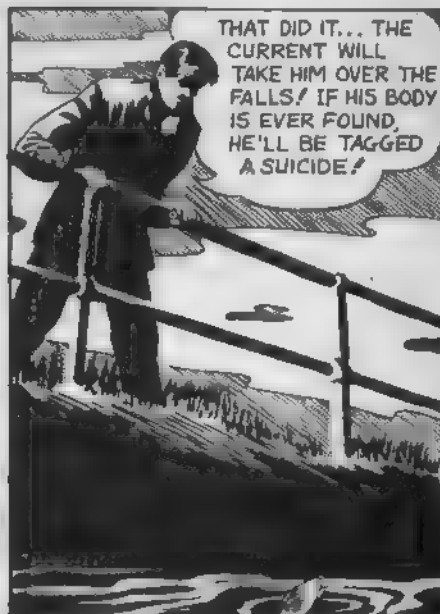
IT ALL BEGAN ONE MIST-FILLED NIGHT
ON THE BANKS OF THE NIAGARA RIVER
JUST ABOVE THE FALLS! AMOS WAS
PENNYLESS... AND HE HAD SEEN AN
ELDERLY MAN WITH A WALLET HEAVY
WITH MONEY...



TOO SOON, THE DEED WAS
DONE...



THAT DID IT... THE
CURRENT WILL
TAKE HIM OVER THE
FALLS! IF HIS BODY
IS EVER FOUND,
HE'LL BE TAGGED
A SUICIDE!





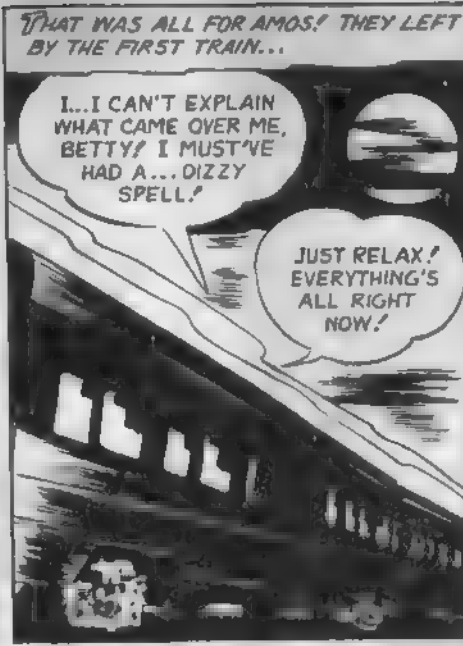
YEARS PASSED AND AMOS PROSPERED! YET, WHENEVER HE HEARD NIAGARA MENTIONED, A NUMBING TERROR STALKED THROUGH HIS MIND AS MEMORY RECALLED THE GUILT OF A GHASTLY SCENE...





LET ME GO! HE TOLD ME TO COME TO HIM...

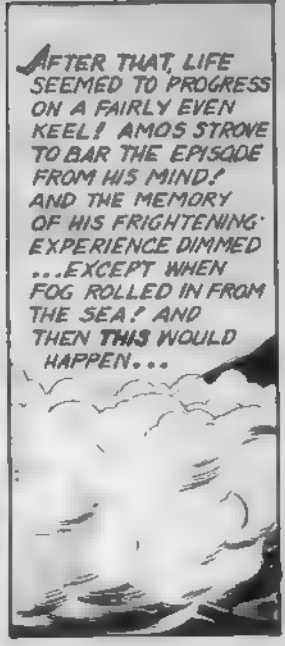
EASY, PAL... EASY!



THAT WAS ALL FOR AMOS! THEY LEFT BY THE FIRST TRAIN...

I...I CAN'T EXPLAIN WHAT CAME OVER ME, BETTY! I MUST'VE HAD A...DIZZY SPELL!

JUST RELAX! EVERYTHING'S ALL RIGHT NOW!



AFTER THAT, LIFE SEEMED TO PROGRESS ON A FAIRLY EVEN KEEL! AMOS STROVE TO BAR THE EPISODE FROM HIS MIND! AND THE MEMORY OF HIS FRIGHTENING EXPERIENCE DIMMED...EXCEPT WHEN FOG ROLLED IN FROM THE SEA! AND THEN THIS WOULD HAPPEN...



IT'S...YOU!

COME, AMOS...COME BACK TO THE FALLS!



WHAT'S WRONG? DID YOU FORGET SOMETHING?

I'M...I'M NOT GOING TO THE OFFICE! PULL THE CURTAINS OVER THAT WINDOW...QUICK!



SO WHEN THE FOG LAY THICK, AMOS STAYED INDOORS WITH THE SHADES DRAWN! THEN, ONE NIGHT, AT A MOVIE...

THESE EXCLUSIVE PICTURES SHOW DARE-DEVIL DANIELS AND HIS HAIR-RAISING TRIP IN A BARREL OVER NIAGARA FALLS...

NO! NO! I CAN'T WATCH IT!

AMOS! WHAT-EVER...



TERRIFIED, AMOS FLED TO THE STREET... ONLY TO FIND THAT A BLANKET OF FOG HAD ROLLED IN FROM THE OCEAN!

FOG! FOG! AND THERE HE IS AGAIN!

COME, AMOS...COME BACK TO THE FALLS!



PANIC-STRICKEN, HE RAN... BUT THERE WAS NO ESCAPE!

WHAT...WHAT DO YOU WANT OF ME?

I WILL NEVER REST UNTIL YOU HAVE BEEN SWEEPED OVER THE FALLS AS I WAS!

**'THE PHANTOM DISAPPEARED.' AND AT HOME...
A GREAT IDEA!**



HE...HE'D BE AT REST AND NEVER DISTURB ME IF I WENT OVER THE FALLS! BUT MAYBE I **COULD** DO IT...AND **LIVE!** LIKE THAT MAN IN THE NEWS-REEL!

AND SO AMOS COMMENCED BUILDING A BARREL THAT WOULD WITHSTAND THE TERRIFIC PUMMELING OF THE GREAT CATARACT...



IT'S FINISHED! I'LL TELL BETTY I'M GOING ON A BUSINESS TRIP...I CAN'T LET HER KNOW WHAT I'M **PLANNING!**

AT NIAGARA, HE RENTED A GARAGE NEAR THE EDGE OF THE RIVER...



I'LL LAUNCH THE BARREL AND MAKE THE TRIP AT DAWN TOMORROW! AND THEN...I'LL BE **FREE** OF THAT CURSED GHOST!

MEANWHILE, SUSPICIOUS THAT AMOS HAD NOT GONE ON A BUSINESS TRIP, BETTY CAME ACROSS A ROAD MAP...



WHY HE'S MARKED A ROUTE HERE! AND IT LEADS TO... **NIAGARA FALLS!**

POSITIVE THAT SOMETHING WAS WRONG, BETTY HASTILY FLEW TO NIAGARA! AS DAWN CAME, SHE WANDERED HOPELESSLY ALONG THE RIVER'S EDGE, NOT KNOWING WHERE TO SEARCH! THEN...



THERE HE IS!

**AMOS!
AMOS!**

WHAT ARE YOU DOING? WHAT'S THAT **BARREL** FOR?

I'M GOING OVER THE FALLS IN IT! I'VE GOT TO!



THERE WAS A CRAZED LOOK IN AMOS' EYES ...AND BETTY KNEW SHE COULDN'T STOP HIM WITH WORDS!



YOU **CAN'T** GO! I WON'T LET YOU!

DRAGGING HER UNCONSCIOUS HUSBAND TO THE GARAGE, BETTY LOCKED HIM INSIDE...



I'LL PUSH THAT BARREL INTO THE RIVER AND GET RID OF IT!

SHE HAD NO SOONER DONE SO WHEN...

WHO'S IN THAT BARREL? DON'T YOU KNOW IT'S AGAINST THE LAW TO PULL THOSE CRAZY STUNTS?

IT'S **EMPTY**, OFFICER!



OH, YEAH? IF YOU ASK ME, THERE'S ANOTHER OF THEM FOOLS INSIDE IT! WELL, TOO LATE TO STOP IT NOW! COME ALONG, LADY... WE'RE GOIN' DOWN BELOW THE FALLS! I'LL SOON KNOW IF YOU'RE TELLIN' THE **TRUTH!**



OF COURSE, I AM! IT'S **EMPTY**, I TELL YOU!

MEANWHILE, AMOS HAD COME TO... TO FIND HE WAS NOT ALONE!



COME, AMOS! COME!



YES... YES...

AT THE EDGE OF THE WHIRLPOOL RAPIDS...

THERE IT IS... THE BARREL! ONE END IS BROKEN OPEN!

YOU'VE **GOT** TO BELIEVE ME! MY HUSBAND WAS GOING TO MAKE THE TRIP IN THAT BARREL... BUT I STOPPED HIM! I LOCKED HIM IN A GARAGE! THERE'S **NO ONE** IN THAT BARREL!



MAYBE NOT... BUT **WHO'S** THAT?

AMOS! AMOS!



AND SO FINALLY, A VENGEFUL SPECTER STRUCK FROM BEYOND DEATH ITSELF... AND CLAIMED ITS VICTIM!

The End

HE WAS A WEAKLING, A COWARD, AND THE PATTERN OF THE RAIN WAS A DISMAL ECHOING OF HIS OWN FRIGHTENED HEART! TREMBLING HE TRIED TO SWALLOW HIS FEAR, KNOWING THAT HIS SALVATION COULD ONLY COME THROUGH THE OLD MAN WHO CALLED HIMSELF ---

THE DREAM KEEPER!



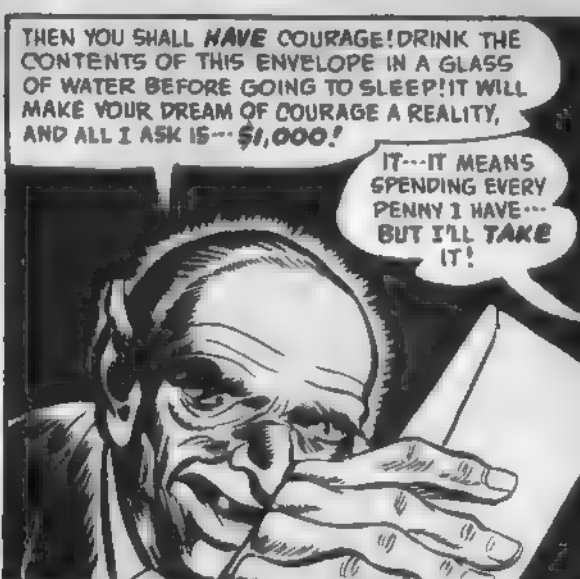
AS THE DOOR SWUNG WIDE ON RUSTED HINGES---





NOW...WHAT IS IT YOU WISH TO BUY?

COURAGE...IF SUCH A THING CAN BE BOUGHT! YOU SEE, I---I'M A COWARD! ALL MY LIFE I'VE BEEN AFRAID, AND I'VE HATED MYSELF FOR IT! I'D RATHER **DIE** THAN TO GO ON THIS WAY! Y...YOU **MUST HELP ME!**



THEN YOU SHALL **HAVE COURAGE!** DRINK THE CONTENTS OF THIS ENVELOPE IN A GLASS OF WATER BEFORE GOING TO SLEEP! IT WILL MAKE YOUR DREAM OF COURAGE A REALITY, AND ALL I ASK IS---\$1,000!

IT---IT MEANS SPENDING EVERY PENNY I HAVE... BUT I'LL TAKE IT!



LATER THAT NIGHT---

IT DOESN'T SEEM POSSIBLE THAT THIS POWDER CAN DO ANYTHING, BUT THAT OLD DEVIL HAS A REPUTATION FOR NEVER FAILING! ANYWAY, **HERE GOES!**



AS THE LIQUID TAKES EFFECT---

I---I FEEL SO **STRANGE!** MY EYES WON'T STAY OPEN! AND THE ROOM---IT'S SPINNING CRAZILY! IT'S THIS MIST---BUT HOW, WHERE, WHAT---



SLOWLY THE MIST THICKENS! THEN---

DO YOU HEAR ME, GEORGE KEMP? I ANSWER THE SUMMONS OF THE **DREAM KEEPER**, AND I WILL GRANT YOU THE COURAGE YOU SO DESPERATELY DESIRE! IN ANOTHER MOMENT--- ONLY ANOTHER---

N--NO! GO AWAY---YOU **FRIGHTEN ME!**



GO AWAY! I DON'T...WAIT! IT WAS ONLY A DREAM! THERE'S NOTHING HERE!



SUDDENLY---

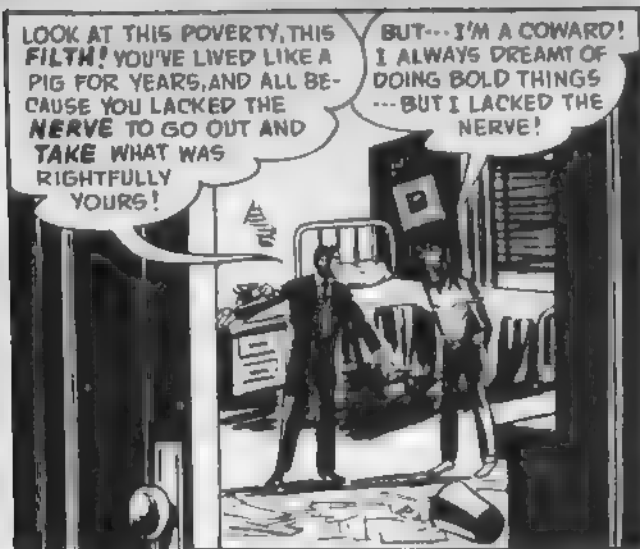
BUT I AM HERE!

WH-WHO ARE YOU? I C---CAN'T SEE!



N--NO! IT **CAN'T BE!** YOU LOOK LIKE ME, ONLY---

OF COURSE, YOU FOOL! I AM YOUR **OTHER SELF**... YOUR **OTHER NATURE** TOO LONG IMPRISONED WITHIN YOUR COWARD'S BODY! BUT NOW I AM **FREE**---AT LAST MY VOICE WILL BE HEARD!



BUT... I'M A COWARD! I ALWAYS DREAMT OF DOING BOLD THINGS --- BUT I LACKED THE NERVE!

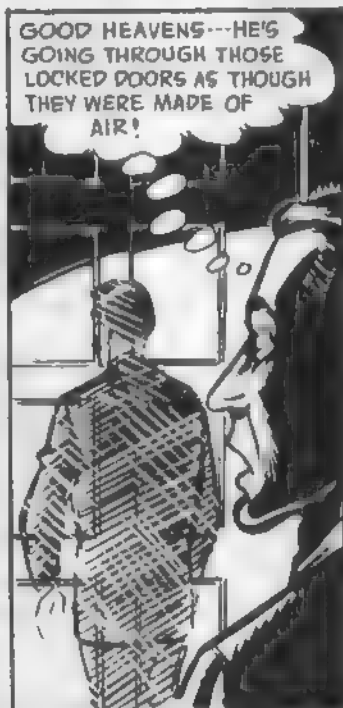


HOW WELL I KNOW IT! TIME AND AGAIN YOU WOULD DAY-DREAM ABOUT ROBBING A BANK, AND THOUGH I URGED YOU ON, YOU NEVER HAD THE COURAGE! TONIGHT THAT DREAM COMES TRUE! THIS TIME YOUR COWARDLY FLESH WILL OBEY ME!

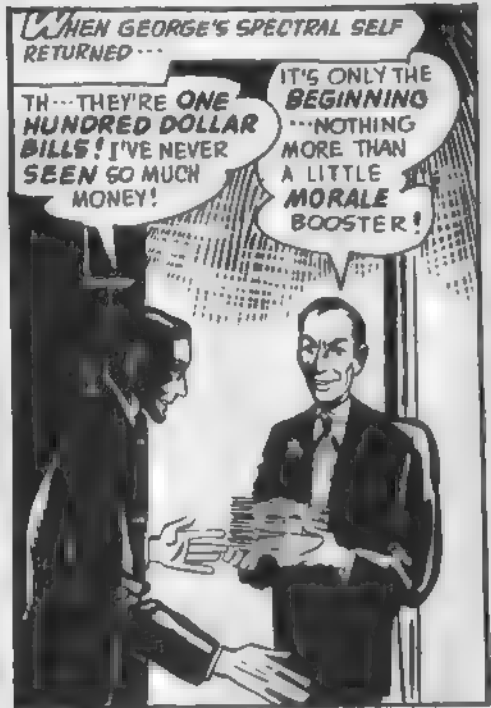
YES... YES! WHATEVER YOU SAY!



I'M NOT AFRAID NOW --- NOT WHEN I'M WITH YOU!



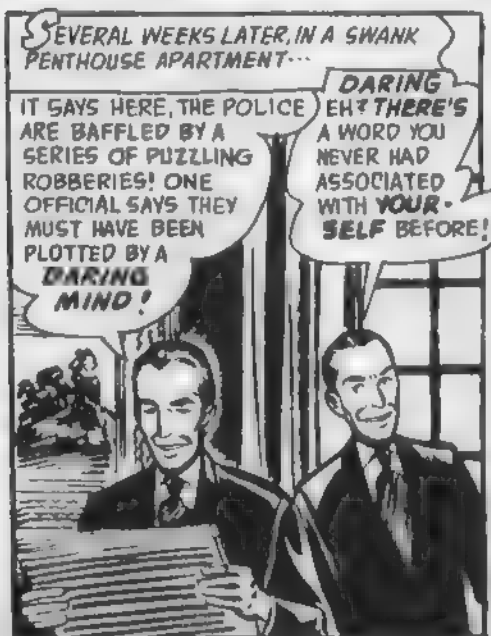
GOOD HEAVENS... HE'S GOING THROUGH THOSE LOCKED DOORS AS THOUGH THEY WERE MADE OF AIR!



WHEN GEORGE'S SPECTRAL SELF RETURNED...

TH... THEY'RE ONE HUNDRED DOLLAR BILLS! I'VE NEVER SEEN SO MUCH MONEY!

IT'S ONLY THE BEGINNING --- NOTHING MORE THAN A LITTLE MORALE BOOSTER!



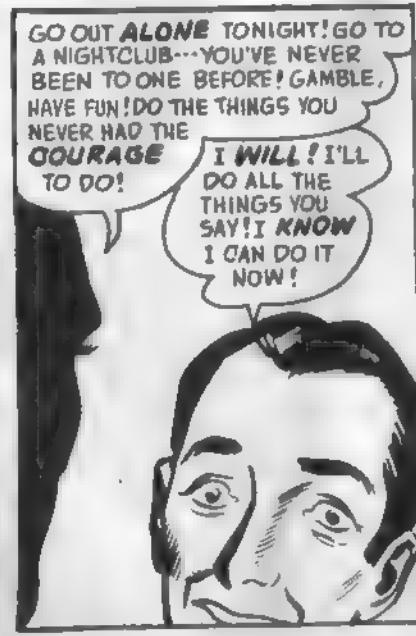
SEVERAL WEEKS LATER, IN A SWANK PENTHOUSE APARTMENT...

DARING EH? THERE'S A WORD YOU NEVER HAD ASSOCIATED WITH YOUR-SELF BEFORE!



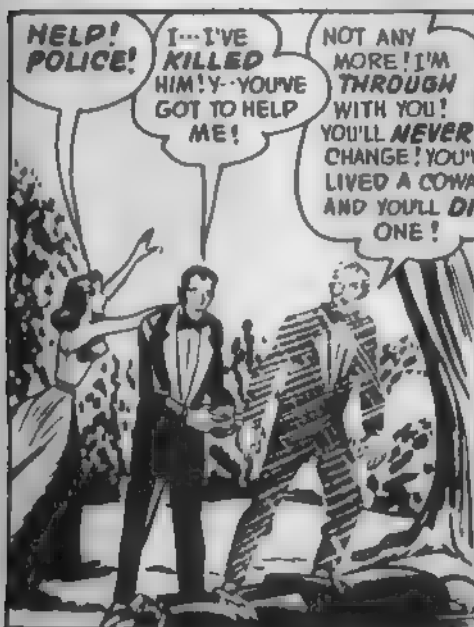
THAT'S TRUE, BUT AFTER ALL, YOU REALLY ARE ME! YOU ARE MY INNER NATURE, RELEASED FROM MY COWARDLY BODY AND FREE TO ACT ON ITS OWN! WHY, I'M BEGINNING TO FORGET I EVER WAS A COWARD!

FINE, FINE! THEN LET'S PUT IT TO A TEST!



GO OUT ALONE TONIGHT! GO TO A NIGHTCLUB... YOU'VE NEVER BEEN TO ONE BEFORE! GAMBLE, HAVE FUN! DO THE THINGS YOU NEVER HAD THE COURAGE TO DO!

I WILL! I'LL DO ALL THE THINGS YOU SAY! I KNOW I CAN DO IT NOW!





The VAMPIRE MASTER

LATE ONE AFTERNOON, A SMALL STEAMER RIDES ITS ANCHOR IN A TINY RIVER PORT IN SOUTH EASTERN MALAYSIA...

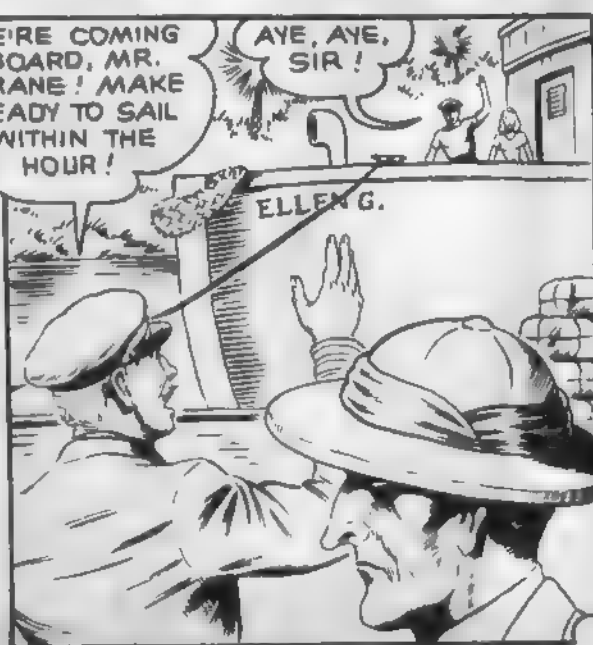
IT WAS NOTHING MORE THAN A JOURNEY UP THE RIVER, OR SO IT SEEMED... BUT IN ONE AGONIZING MOMENT, THE REVOLTING HORROR STRUCK! A MONSTROUS ASSAULT THAT COMBINED THE UNHOLY TERROR OF THE LIVING DEAD AND THE THIRSTING EVIL OF... THE VAMPIRE MASTER!

TAKE A LOOK DOWN AT THE DOCK, ELLEN! THAT MAN TALKING WITH YOUR FATHER... I'VE GOT A HUNCH WE'LL BE BOOKING A PASSENGER!

YOU COULDN'T BE MORE RIGHT, STEVE! HIS NAME IS VAN HORN-- AND HE'S OFFERED DAD A VERY ATTRACTIVE PROPOSITION!

WE'RE COMING ABOARD, MR. CRANE! MAKE READY TO SAIL WITHIN THE HOUR!

AYE, AYE, SIR!



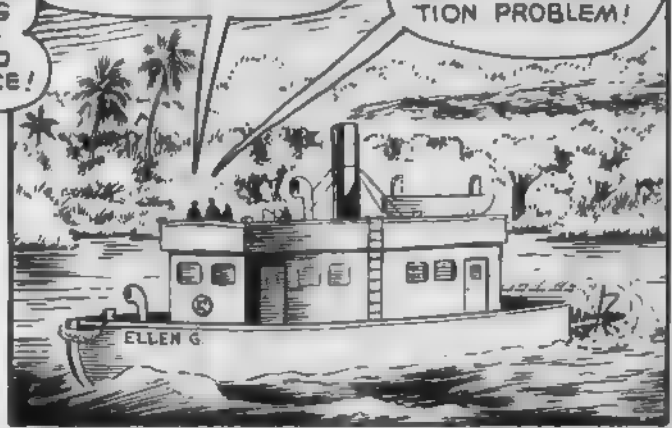
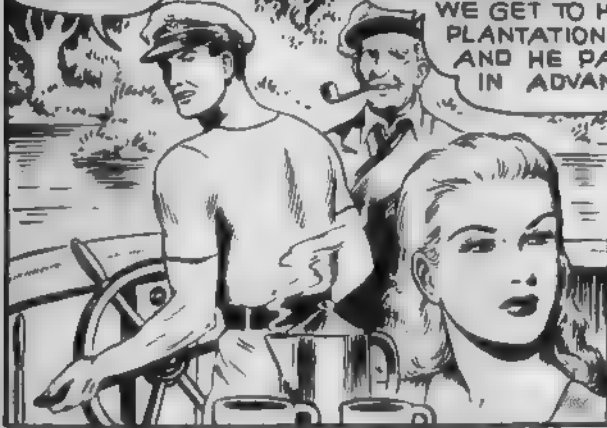
SEVERAL HOURS LATER, AS THE SHIP CHUGS ITS WAY UPSTREAM...

OUR PASSENGER DOESN'T SEEM TO BE THE CHATTY TYPE, CAPTAIN! LOCKED HIMSELF IN HIS CABIN THE MINUTE HE CAME ABOARD!

SO WHAT? HIS MONEY TALKS FOR HIM, AND OUR FRIEND VAN HORN HAS **PLENTY!** HE'S PROMISED ME A GOOD CARGO WHEN WE GET TO HIS PLANTATION-- AND HE PAID IN ADVANCE!

NOW GET THIS, STEVE! WE'LL BE PASSING BELANG ANY MINUTE! WE'RE TO TAKE THE LEFT FORK AND PROCEED UP THE TRIBUTARY ABOUT 15 MILES-- THAT SHOULD BRING US TO VAN HORN'S PLACE!

THAT COULD BE **RUGGED!** THAT TRIBUTARY IS SELDOM TRAVELED, AND WE MAY FIND OURSELVES WITH A NAVIGATION PROBLEM!



MASTER STEVE SPEAK TRUTH, CAPTAIN! FORK IN RIVER VERY BAD PLACE! FILLED WITH EVIL-- MUCH DANGER!

LISTEN, RASU-- IF YOU'RE GOING TO COME UP WITH ANY MORE OF THAT SUPERSTITIOUS NONSENSE OF YOURS...

DO NOT GO! DO AS RASU SAY-- OR WE ALL **DIE!**

THAT'LL BE ENOUGH, RASU! NOW TAKE OVER THE WHEEL AND REMEMBER, NO NONSENSE!



I DON'T KNOW, STEVE! GIVING HIM THE WHEEL IN HIS STATE OF MIND COULD BE **RISKY!**

IF ANYTHING, IT SHOULD STEADY HIS NERVES! RIGHT NOW WE'D BETTER GET BELOW AND TAKE A FEW SOUNDINGS-- WE'LL BE BREACHING THAT FORK ANY MINUTE!

NOT LONG AFTERWARDS, AS THE STEAMER TURNS UP THE NARROW TRIBUTARY, THE SILENT AIR IS DISTURBED BY THE SWIFT FLAPPING OF OMINOUS WINGS!

THEN... A SURGE OF EVIL MENACE!





THUD!
IT CAME FROM THE BRIDGE! SOMETHING'S GONE WRONG!
COME ON!

STEVE!
THAT NOISE!



OH, NO!

GOOD LORD, IT'S--
GET BACK, ELLEN!
GET BACK!



THERE IS NO ESCAPE, YOU FOOLS!
YOU SEE ME NOW FOR WHAT I AM
-- BUT YOU SHALL NEVER LEAVE
MY DOMAIN ALIVE!

IT'S VAN HORN--
A CURSED
VAMPIRE!
H... HE TRICKED ME!



NOT ALTOGETHER, CAPTAIN! I PROMISED A CARGO, AND A CARGO THERE SHALL BE -- THE LIKES OF WHICH YOU HAVE NEVER SEEN!



MY CARGO, CAPTAIN GREYSON!
THE LIVING DEAD!

ZOMBIES! ELLEN, CAPTAIN--
OVER THE SIDE! DON'T ARGUE-- JUST DO AS I SAY!



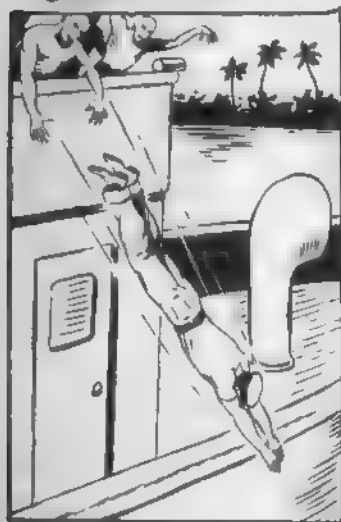
I CAN'T LEAVE YOU TO THEM, DARLING! I WON'T!

FOR THE LOVE OF PETE, ELLEN-- DON'T ARGUE! I'LL SOON BE OUT OF BULLETS! IF YOU LOVE ME-- JUMP!

BANG!
BANG!

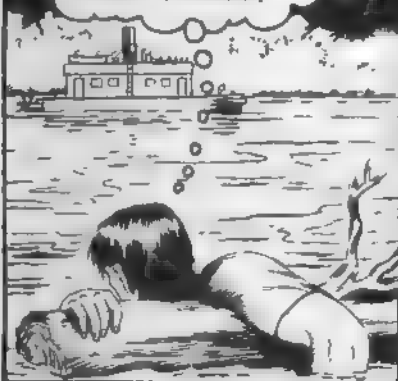


AS THE GRUESOME HORDE
SWARMS IN FOR THE KILL,
STEVE MAKES A SPLIT-
SECOND LEAP!



MINUTES LATER--

THAT WAS THE LONGEST
(GASP) UNDERWATER SWIM
I EVER MADE! HOPE I
TRICKED THEM INTO THINK-
ING I DIDN'T MAKE IT!
NOW TO GET TO SHORE
AND FIND ELLEN AND
HER FATHER!



THAT'S CAPTAIN
GREYSON-- BUT
WHERE'S ELLEN?
SHE'S GONE!



ARE YOU
ALL RIGHT,
SIR? WHAT
HAPPENED?

DON'T-- WORRY
ABOUT ME, STEVE..
IT'S ELLEN! SHE..
MADE SHORE AHEAD
OF ME... THEN TWO
OF THOSE ZOMBIES
GRABBED HER...
DRAGGED HER INTO
THE JUNGLE! I
TRIED TO GET TO
HER... COULDN'T
SWIM FAST
ENOUGH!



AND HERE COME THOSE
CREEPS NOW-- HEADED
THIS WAY! WE CAN'T
STAY HERE, SIR-- DO
YOU THINK YOU CAN
TAKE COVER IN THE
REEDS?

I'M
OKAY
NOW,
STEVE!
LET'S
GO!





THEY'RE GOING BACK INTO THE JUNGLE, AND I'M POSITIVE THEIR TRAIL WILL LEAD US TO ELLEN! I'M GOING AFTER THEM, BUT THERE'S SOMETHING YOU'LL HAVE TO DO! ANYTHING YOU SAY!

AS SOON AS THEY'RE GONE, TAKE ONE OF THEIR RAFTS AND HEAD BACK TO THE SHIP! GET UP STEAM-- OUR LIVES MAY DEPEND ON HOW FAST WE CAN GET OUT OF HERE!

I'LL DO MY PART! GOOD LUCK, STEVE!



THE TRAIL LEADS TO A JUNGLE CLEARING, WHERE...

YOUR STRUGGLES WILL DO YOU NO GOOD! YOU ARE IN MY DOMAIN AND BEYOND HELP! THE OTHER TWO ARE DEAD-- THEIR BODIES LIE AT THE BOTTOM OF THE RIVER!

IT ISN'T TRUE! IT ISN'T!



IT IS TRUE, BUT SOON YOUR DESPAIR WILL PASS! I AM PREPARED TO BESTOW A RARE PRIVILEGE ON YOU! AS YOU'VE OBSERVED, MY DISCIPLES ARE MERELY ZOMBIES-- DULL, WITTED, SPIRITLESS SLAVES! BUT YOU SHALL BE DIFFERENT! YOU SHALL BECOME A VAMPIRE-- LIKE ME!

TOGETHER WE SHALL RULE!

N-NO! I'LL DIE FIRST!



I THINK NOT-- IN TIME YOU WILL NOT FIND IT SO OBJECTIONABLE! OUR ZOMBIE SLAVES WILL PROVIDE US WITH VICTIMS AS THEY HAVE PROVIDED ME IN THE PAST! THAT IS WHY I PLANNED SO CAREFULLY IN STEALING YOUR FATHER'S SHIP!

WHY, YOU FIEND? WHY?

BECAUSE THERE ARE NO LONGER VICTIMS TO BE HAD IN THIS PART OF THE JUNGLE! BUT YOUR FATHER'S SHIP WILL TRANSPORT US TO A NEW AREA AND FRESH VICTIMS! HIS BOAT WILL DRAW NO SUSPICION WHEN WE STEAM INTO A NEW PORT! THE REST WILL BE SIMPLE!

I WON'T BE PART OF IT! I WON'T!

NEARBY, IN HIDING...

THEY'RE TAKING HER BACK TO THE RIVER! I CAN'T RISK SHOWING MY HAND NOW-- MY BEST BET IS TO TRAIL THEM BACK AND LOOK FOR MY CHANCE!



SOON THE VAMPIRE MASTER AND HIS PACK REACH THE RIVER BANK...

IN A LITTLE WHILE WE SHALL HAVE A **VAMPIRE QUEEN!** YOU WILL REMAIN HERE TILL I GIVE THE SIGAL -- THEN YOU WILL JOIN US ABOARD THE BOAT!

WE OBEY, MASTER!

AS THE VAMPIRE'S RAFT DARTS FORWARD, KEEN EYES PEER OUT FROM BEHIND A CLUMP OF REEDS!

HERE THEY COME-- AND THERE'S ONLY ONE CREEP AND VAN HORN ABOARD! MAYBE I'VE GOT A CHANCE-- ANYWAY, HERE GOES FOR A **GOOD TRY!**

STEVE! STEVE!

WHA--?



HE'S-- DEAD, STEVE! YOU DESTROYED THE FIEND!

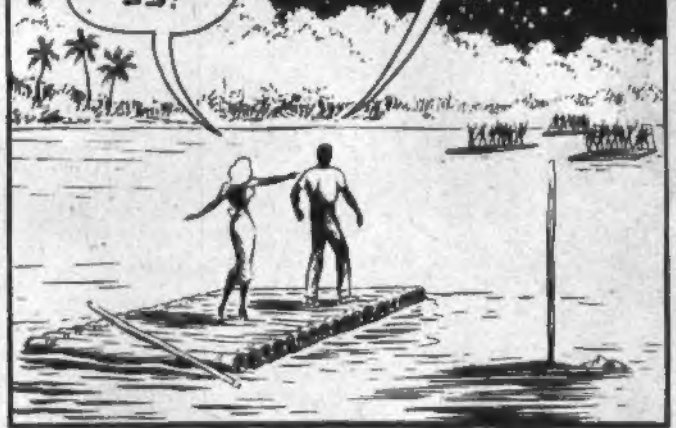
THANKS TO THAT WOODEN POLE! I ONCE READ SOMEWHERE THAT A WOODEN STAKE THROUGH A VAMPIRE'S HEART IS THE ONLY WAY OF KILLING HIM FOR GOOD! AND THANK GOSH IT WORKED!



SUDDENLY...

STEVE! VAN HORN'S ZOMBIE SLAVES.. THEY'RE COMING AFTER US!

HOLY SMOKE, I'D CLEAN FORGOTTEN ABOUT THEM! WE'VE GOT TO GET BACK TO THE SHIP PRONTO!



MINUTES LATER...

I'VE GOT UP A FULL HEAD OF STEAM, STEVE! WE'RE READY TO SHOVE OFF!

NICE GOING! AND I'VE GOT A SUREFIRE IDEA OF HOW TO GET RID OF THOSE CREEPS PERMANENTLY!



DON'T ASK ME ANY QUESTIONS-- JUST OPEN THE PETCOCKS ON THE GASOLINE STORAGE TANKS! HURRY-- THERE ISN'T MUCH TIME!

ON THE DOUBLE!



AS THE FUEL VALVES ARE OPENED, A HEAVY SLICK SPREADS ACROSS THE STREAM... UNWITTINGLY, THE ZOMBIE HORDE RIDES INTO IT...

NOW STAND BACK, ELLEN!



LATER... HOMEWARD BOUND...

YOU'VE CERTAINLY PROVEN YOURSELF, STEVE! FROM NOW ON YOU'RE NO LONGER MY CHIEF MATE, BUT A FULL PARTNER! WHAT DO YOU SAY?

THAT'S GREAT, SIR-- ONLY I'LL BE MORE THAN JUST A PARTNER! I'LL BE YOUR SON-IN-LAW, TOO!



THE END

FREE!

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\$5 EACH

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The 4 American Soldiers are richly decorative in the glorious full color uniforms of a bygone American era. Each is 14 inches high. Make a lovely grouping. The small illustrations cannot possibly show the beauty and color they will add to your home. Send for yours today.

Offer May Not Be Repeated This Season

We urge you to take advantage of this unusual FREE MURAL offer now. Supplies are limited. All 4 prints are only \$2 and the American Eagle Mural is included free. Money back if not thrilled. But send today.

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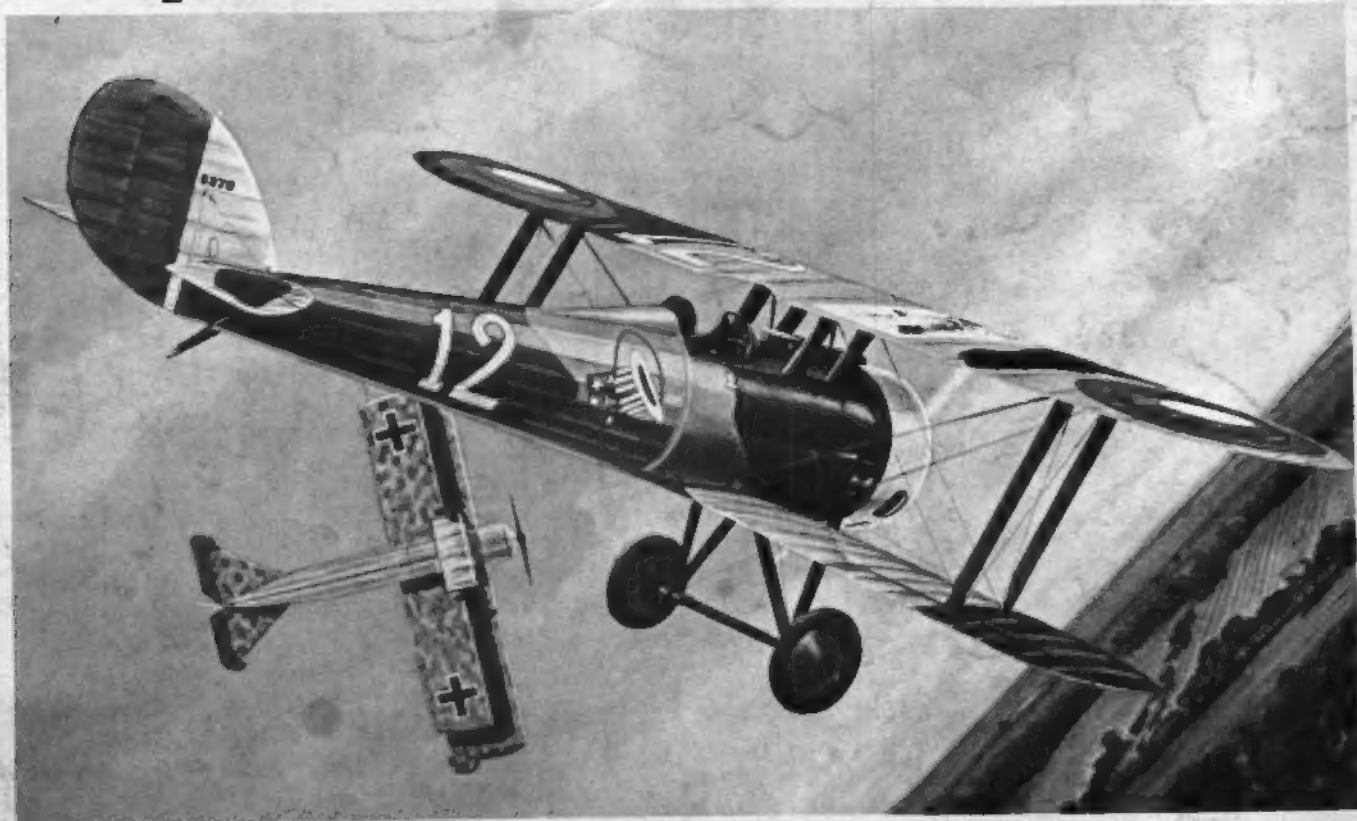
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